

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE
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S.B. 231
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE DRS45108-MG-74 (03/10)

Short Title: Study Unified Public Health System.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
3 STUDY THE CONCEPT OF A UNIFIED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM AND THE
4 FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNIFIED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM WITHIN
5 THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** By no later than May 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Human
8 Services shall study the concept of a unified public health system for the State of North
9 Carolina and report on the feasibility of establishing a unified public health system in this State
10 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Program
11 Evaluation Division. The study and report shall include at least all of the following:

- 12 (1) An evaluation of the state of publicly financed health services in North
13 Carolina compared to at least 12 other states using generally accepted
14 indicators of population health, including, but not limited to, rates of infant
15 mortality, obesity, diabetes, tobacco use, prescription drug and other drug
16 abuse, mental illness, and other diseases and conditions for which public
17 interventions are appropriate.
- 18 (2) A description of the extent and quality of available public health indicators,
19 including collection methods, comprehensiveness, validity, accessibility and
20 availability for research, and use in continuous improvement of public health
21 policies; and an analysis of costs associated with improving deficient data
22 reporting systems.
- 23 (3) An evaluation of the publicly financed health service delivery structure in
24 North Carolina, including identification of State, local, public, and private
25 entities engaged in activities contributing to health outcomes; and a review
26 of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the service
27 structure. This evaluation shall take into consideration public health
28 education, including, but not limited to, health education for kindergarten
29 through high school students and education of the public health workforce.
- 30 (4) An evaluation of the governance structure of public health and mental
31 health, including the advantages and disadvantages of current and alternative
32 governance models.
- 33 (5) An evaluation of how health needs and health deficiencies are
34 communicated to State policymakers.



- 1 (6) Recommendations for public strategies and innovations to capitalize on
2 North Carolina's strengths and opportunities for remedying weaknesses and
3 for protecting against threats to health.
4 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.