

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30108-MGa-70 (03/01)

Short Title: Strengthen Youth Tobacco Use Prevention/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Adcock, Dobson, and Watford (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROTECTING NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH FROM THE DANGERS OF
3 TOBACCO USE.

4 Whereas, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in North Carolina and
5 the United States, and there are currently 180,000 youth alive in North Carolina who will die
6 prematurely from smoking; and

7 Whereas, in North Carolina, nearly three out of every 10 high school students use
8 tobacco products, and the use of electronic cigarettes by North Carolina high school students
9 increased 888% between 2011 and 2015, from 1.7% to 16.8%; and

10 Whereas, the United States Surgeon General reported that electronic cigarette use
11 among youth and young adults is an emerging public health threat, use of products containing
12 nicotine in any form among young people is unsafe, secondhand electronic cigarette aerosol that is
13 exhaled into the air by users is not harmless, and states must take action to prevent harm rather
14 than waiting for harm to occur; and

15 Whereas, smoking directly causes \$3.81 billion in health care costs in North Carolina
16 every year, and Medicaid costs caused by smoking are more than \$931 million yearly; and

17 Whereas, North Carolinians pay an extra \$874 per household in taxes due to
18 smoking-related government expenditures, and smoking causes \$4.24 billion in productivity losses
19 in North Carolina every year; and

20 Whereas, evidence shows that funding to create State and community interventions that
21 encourage individuals to avoid tobacco use and help perpetuate social norms that discourage
22 tobacco use are some of the most effective ways to prevent tobacco use and tobacco-related
23 chronic disease and death among youth and people of childbearing age; and

24 Whereas, North Carolina receives approximately \$140 million every year from the
25 Master Settlement Agreement, which was intended to be used for tobacco use prevention
26 programs; and by spending a fraction of this on prevention, North Carolina can save on future
27 medical costs caused by tobacco-related illnesses and save thousands of youth from becoming
28 daily smokers; and

29 Whereas, an investment of \$17 million a year in tobacco use prevention programs
30 could save North Carolina almost \$196 million in future health care expenditures; Now, therefore,
31 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

32 **SECTION 1.** Article 39 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
33 new section to read:

34 **"§ 14-313.5. Tobacco Use Prevention Fund.**

35 (a) Creation of Tobacco Use Prevention Fund. – The Tobacco Use Prevention Fund is
36 created as a restricted reserve in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public



1 Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Section. Monies in the Fund do not revert but remain available
2 to the Department for these purposes.

3 (b) Purpose. – The purpose of the Fund is to prevent the use of new and emerging tobacco
4 products, including electronic cigarettes, especially among youth and people of childbearing age.
5 The Department of Health and Human Services may use monies in the Fund only for the
6 following purposes:

7 (1) To create regional tobacco use prevention programs covering all 100 counties
8 in North Carolina to engage young people in tobacco use prevention teams in
9 counties and school districts across the region, provide education and training
10 of youth leaders at the local level, and reach young people with effective
11 tobacco use prevention, with an emphasis on preventing the use of new and
12 emerging tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.

13 (2) To provide technical assistance and oversight of the regional tobacco use
14 prevention programs.

15 (3) For evidence-based education campaigns on the health risks of tobacco use,
16 new and emerging tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, and
17 effective tobacco use prevention and control strategies and policies through
18 channels known to effectively reach youth, parents, and communities across the
19 State.

20 (4) For education and enforcement of G.S. 14-313, including with respect to new
21 and emerging tobacco products.

22 (5) To conduct an independent, university-based evaluation of the reach and
23 effectiveness of the State's tobacco use prevention programs.

24 (c) Administration. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop
25 guidelines providing for the administration of the Fund. The Department may use up to
26 twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated to the Tobacco Use Prevention Fund to
27 administer the Fund.

28 (d) Disbursement of Funds. – The Department may disburse funds from the Tobacco Use
29 Prevention Fund to any local health department or other organization with an interest in
30 preventing tobacco use that does not receive funding from the tobacco industry upon a
31 demonstration by the local health department or organization of both of the following:

32 (1) A purpose authorized by subsection (b) of this section.

33 (2) A commitment to compliance with guidelines developed by the Department on
34 evidence-based tobacco use prevention and control strategies."

35 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
36 Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Section, the
37 sum of seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and the sum of
38 seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. These funds shall be
39 allocated during each year of the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to the Tobacco Use Prevention Fund
40 created by G.S. 14-313.5, as enacted by this act.

41 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.