

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 841
May 4, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30335-NDa-27A

Short Title: DHHS Compliance Review/Jail Suicide Attempts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cunningham.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
3 CONDUCT A COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOLLOWING A REPORT OF AN ATTEMPTED
4 SUICIDE BY AN INMATE IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL CONFINEMENT
5 FACILITY IN THE STATE AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 153A-225 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(a1) If a prisoner in the custody of a local confinement facility attempts suicide, the
9 administrator of the facility shall make a written report to the local or district health director and
10 to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services within five days of the date of
11 the suicide attempt. The report shall be made on forms developed and distributed by the
12 Department of Health and Human Services and reported to the address set forth on the form.

13 Following each reported attempted suicide, the Department shall review the facility's
14 compliance with its suicide prevention program and other relevant minimum standards published
15 pursuant to G.S. 153A-220 and G.S. 153A-221. Following a review, the Department shall make
16 a written report summarizing its findings and shall submit that report to the local or district health
17 director, the governing body, and other local officials responsible for the facility within 30 days
18 of the date the inspection is conducted pursuant to this section and G.S. 153A-222.

19 For the purposes of this section, a suicide attempt is a nonfatal, self-directed, and potentially
20 injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior which results in or is likely to
21 have resulted in physical injury requiring medical treatment."

22 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Health and Human Services, Division of Health Services Regulation, Construction Section, the
24 sum of one hundred eighty-six thousand seven hundred two dollars (\$186,702) in recurring funds
25 for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be used to hire two full-time Jail Inspectors to
26 perform inspections of local confinement facilities as required by G.S. 153A-222.

27 **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
28 Health and Human Services, Division of Health Services Regulation, Construction Section, the
29 sum of one hundred ten thousand two hundred ninety-six dollars (\$110,296) in recurring funds
30 for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be used to hire one full-time Facility
31 Compliance Consultant II or comparable position to perform compliance reviews of each
32 attempted suicide reported pursuant to the requirements of Section 1 of this act.

33 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2021. The remainder
34 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

