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SENATE BILL DRS45157-MTa-76

Short Title: Student Health and Responsibility Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Applewhite and Robinson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THE SAFER SEX SUPPLIES
3 GRANT PROGRAM.

4 Whereas, North Carolina experiences significant costs related to treating sexually
5 transmitted infections (STIs), which impact the public health system and the economy of the
6 State; and

7 Whereas, investing in preventive health measures is proven to reduce taxpayer
8 burdens by lowering emergency medical costs and Medicaid expenses and by avoiding lost
9 productivity due to illness; and

10 Whereas, ensuring students remain in school and complete their education contributes
11 to North Carolina's workforce development, economic growth, and global competitiveness; and

12 Whereas, businesses benefit from a healthier, more-educated workforce, and
13 economic studies indicate that states with strong public health initiatives see increased workforce
14 participation; and

15 Whereas, programs that promote personal responsibility and preventive care align
16 with fiscally responsible governance by mitigating future public health care expenditures; and

17 Whereas, empowering students with the knowledge and resources to make informed
18 health decisions ensures their ability to protect their futures and pursue academic and professional
19 success without unnecessary health-related setbacks; and

20 Whereas, targeted data collection and analysis will ensure that (i) rural, suburban, and
21 urban communities receive equitable access to resources and (ii) program implementation is
22 based on effectiveness and efficiency; Now, therefore,
23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24
25 **PART I. TITLE**

26 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Student Health and
27 Responsibility Act."
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29 **PART II. SAFER SEX SUPPLIES GRANT PROGRAM**

30 **SECTION 2.(a)** Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this section:

31 (1) Applicable administering entity. – As follows:

- 32 a. For constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, the
33 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina.
34 b. For community colleges, the State Board of Community Colleges.
35 c. For public school units, the Department of Public Instruction.



- 1 (2) Eligible entity. – Constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina,
2 community colleges, and public school units.
- 3 (3) Safer sex supplies. – Supplies that help promote safe sexual encounters,
4 including condoms and lubricants.

5 **SECTION 2.(b)** Program Established. – There is established the Safer Sex Supplies
6 Grant Program (Program) for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 fiscal years. The
7 Program shall expire June 30, 2028. The Program shall be administered separately by the Board
8 of Governors of The University of North Carolina for constituent institutions of The University
9 of North Carolina, the State Board of Community Colleges for community colleges, and the
10 Department of Public Instruction for high schools in public school units. The purpose of the
11 Program is to reduce health care costs and support student success by assisting eligible entities
12 that are grant recipients to provide free access for students to safer sex supplies at constituent
13 institutions of The University of North Carolina, community colleges, and high schools located
14 in public school units.

15 **SECTION 2.(c)** Grant Applications. – An eligible entity may submit an application
16 to the applicable administering entity for a grant pursuant to this section for each year the
17 Program is in effect. The application shall identify at least the following:

- 18 (1) Current and ongoing needs for safer sex supplies and estimated costs
19 associated with those needs.
- 20 (2) A plan to do at least the following:
- 21 a. Offer free safer sex supplies in designated locations on campus,
22 including student health centers, residence halls, guidance counselor
23 offices, and offices of athletic coaches.
- 24 b. Replenish supplies as needed based on student usage.
- 25 c. Maintain student privacy and dignity to foster responsible decision
26 making and self-sufficiency.
- 27 d. Partner with campus organizations, student health groups, community
28 organizations, health care providers, local health departments,
29 nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities to facilitate
30 distribution and awareness campaigns for the Program, including
31 securing in-kind contributions of safer sex supplies.
- 32 e. Establish at each eligible entity receiving funds a Student Health
33 Advisory Committee consisting of student body leaders, health
34 professionals, and faculty advisors. The Committee would oversee
35 implementation of the grant funds, assess student engagement, and
36 recommend improvements.
- 37 f. Continue to provide safer sex supplies to students without grant funds
38 after the expiration of the Program.

39 **SECTION 2.(d)** Administration of Grants; Award of Funds. – Each applicable
40 administering entity shall develop appropriate criteria and guidelines for selecting grant
41 recipients and administering the grants pursuant to this section, including at least the following:

- 42 (1) Prioritizing the selection of grant recipients based on applications that
43 demonstrate economic benefits, collaboration, and cost efficiency.
- 44 (2) Allocating funds to an eligible entity that receives an award on the basis of
45 enrollment.

46 **SECTION 2.(e)** Use of Funds. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
47 contrary, including G.S. 115C-81.30(e), eligible entities receiving grant funds pursuant to this
48 section shall do the following:

- 49 (1) Provide free safer sex supplies to students in accordance with the application
50 submitted by the eligible entity pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

1 (2) Refrain from requiring parental permission for students to access safer sex
2 supplies, including for students enrolled in high school in a public school unit.

3 **SECTION 2.(f)** Collaboration. – Each applicable administering entity shall
4 collaborate with the other applicable administering entities and eligible entities receiving grant
5 funds, to the extent possible, to share best practices and coordinate outreach efforts.

6 **SECTION 2.(g)** Supplement Not Supplant. – Grants provided pursuant to the
7 Program shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds already
8 provided for safer sex supplies.

9 **SECTION 2.(h)** Administrative Costs. – Of the funds appropriated to each
10 applicable administering entity by this act for the grants provided in this section, the applicable
11 administering entity may retain a total of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in each
12 fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the Program.

13 **SECTION 2.(i)** Program Report. – No later than April 1 of each fiscal year in which
14 funds are awarded pursuant to this section, each applicable administering entity shall report on
15 the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative
16 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. The report shall include at least the
17 following information:

- 18 (1) The identity of each eligible entity that received grant funds through the
19 Program.
 - 20 (2) The amount of funding received by each entity identified pursuant to
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection.
 - 22 (3) The safer sex supplies purchased with grant funds by each entity that received
23 a grant and rates of student usage of those supplies.
 - 24 (4) The overall impact of the Program, including at least the following
25 information:
 - 26 a. Projected health care savings rates.
 - 27 b. Regional effectiveness of the Program.
 - 28 (5) Recommendations to expand or modify the Program, taking into account
29 cost-effectiveness and the impact of the Program on public health.
- 30

31 **PART III. APPROPRIATIONS**

32 **SECTION 3.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of nine million
33 six hundred thousand dollars (\$9,600,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2025-2027
34 fiscal biennium to provide grants to public high schools and public institutions of higher
35 education in accordance with the Safer Sex Supplies Grant Program established pursuant to
36 Section 2 of this act and to be allocated in each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium as
37 follows:

- 38 (1) Three million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$3,750,000) to the Board
39 of Governors of The University of North Carolina.
- 40 (2) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the Community Colleges System Office.
- 41 (3) Two million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,850,000) to the
42 Department of Public Instruction.

43 **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
44 Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand
45 dollars (\$750,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and the sum of seven
46 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to
47 do all of the following in relation to the Safer Sex Supplies Grant Program (Program) authorized
48 by Section 2 of this act:

- 49 (1) Coordinate with applicable administering entities and eligible entities
50 receiving grant funds under the Program to ensure consistent messaging,

- 1 foster public awareness, and promote informed and responsible decision
- 2 making by students.
- 3 (2) Provide technical assistance, data monitoring, and other related support to
- 4 eligible entities receiving funds under the Program and to local health
- 5 departments that collaborate with eligible entities.
- 6 (3) Collaborate with local health departments and student groups to provide
- 7 guidance on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, the benefits of
- 8 preventive care, and related workforce impact analysis.

9 **SECTION 3.(c)** The funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall not revert at
10 the end of each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium but shall instead remain available
11 until June 30, 2028.

12 **PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

13 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.
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