

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS45450-MGa-167

Short Title: Protect Moms Who Serve. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Applewhite and Murdock (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, IN  
3 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS  
4 AFFAIRS, TO STUDY HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE  
5 MILITARY; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall study  
8 the following issues affecting women who serve in the military:

- 9 (1) Coordinating effectively between veterans health care facilities and  
10 non-veterans health care facilities in the delivery of maternity care and other  
11 health care services.  
12 (2) Facilitating access to community resources to address social determinants of  
13 health, including housing, nutrition, and employment status.  
14 (3) Identifying mental and behavioral health risk factors in the prenatal and  
15 postpartum periods and ensuring that pregnant and postpartum veterans get  
16 the treatments they need.  
17 (4) Facilitating access to childbirth preparation classes, parenting classes,  
18 nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, lactation classes, and breast  
19 pumps.  
20 (5) Reducing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, with a particular  
21 focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes.  
22 (6) Referring veterans who are mothers to the VA Community Care Network and  
23 recommendations for how that process can be improved.  
24 (7) Existing barriers to maternity care affecting veterans who are mothers.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** In conducting the study required by subsection (a) of this section,  
26 the Department of Health and Human Services shall solicit feedback from mothers who are  
27 currently serving, or who formerly served, in the military. In addition, the DHHS shall consult  
28 with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), as necessary. The DMVA shall  
29 cooperate with the DHHS and provide any assistance or information requested with respect to  
30 the study required by subsection (a) of this section.

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** By April 1, 2027, the DHHS shall report its findings, and any  
32 recommendations for legislation, to the Senate Health Care Committee, the Joint Legislative  
33 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
34 on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division.

35 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
36 Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring



1 funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year for the purpose of conducting the study described in Section  
2 1 of this act.

3 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.