

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 86*

Short Title: Social Services Plan.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Walker, Allran, Harris, Hunt of Moore, Richardson; and Rauch.

Referred to: Human Resources.

February 1, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A SOCIAL SERVICES PLAN TO ENSURE THE UNIFORM AVAILABILITY OF CORE SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to provide a statewide system of social services and public assistance programs to meet the basic needs of citizens who cannot meet those needs themselves. The goals and purposes of that system include:

(1) To ensure that children and adults are protected from abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(2) To enable citizens to maintain or achieve maximum self-sufficiency and personal independence through employment, if possible;

(3) To strengthen family life in order to nurture our children so that they may become productive, healthy, responsible adults;

(4) To assist disabled and dependent adults, while ensuring that they live in the most independent setting feasible with the least possible intrusion from public agencies;

(5) To ensure that every family and individual has sufficient economic resources to obtain the basic necessities of life.

It is the policy of this State to operate its social services system through a cooperative partnership between the State and the counties, primarily through programs that are

1 administered by the counties and supervised by the State, and with both State and
2 county financial participation.

3 Sec. 2. In order to ensure that a quality core of social services is available to
4 every citizen of the State who needs them and to ensure that the necessary resources are
5 available to provide those services, it is the policy of the State to define a minimum core
6 of social services and to provide from federal funds available for those purposes and
7 from State revenues the expenses of providing those services across the State.

8 Sec. 3. The Department of Human Resources, in consultation and cooperation
9 with other appropriate agencies and groups, shall develop a Social Services Plan
10 consistent with the policies stated in Sections 1 and 2 of this act. The Plan shall include
11 at least the following:

12 (1) A definition of a core of social services that shall be provided in every
13 county;

14 (2) Cost estimates and a plan and timetable for assuring the availability of the
15 core of services in each county;

16 (3) Minimum standards for the provision of core services and public
17 assistance programs, including staffing standards, caseload standards, training
18 standards, and facilities standards;

19 (4) State and county responsibilities for the financing of social services not
20 included in Section 2 of this act, public assistance benefits, program administration
21 costs, physical facilities, and staff training; and

22 (5) Strengthened mechanisms for State supervision and enforcement of
23 program standards.

24 Sec. 4. In carrying out its responsibilities under this act, the Department of
25 Human Resources shall consult, on a systematic basis through a process designed by the
26 Department, with local and State governmental agencies and boards and with public and
27 private agencies and organizations.

28 Sec. 5. The Department of Human Resources shall report periodically on the
29 Plan required by Section 3 of this act to the Social Services Study Commission, if that
30 Commission is reauthorized. The Department shall submit the final Plan to the General
31 Assembly by the convening of the 1990 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

32 Sec. 6. This act is effective upon ratification.