

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 615

Short Title: Children's Vaccine Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Forrester, Hoyle, and Odom.

Referred to: Appropriations

April 10, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE VACCINE FOR
IMMUNIZING CHILDREN AGAINST CHICKEN POX.**

Whereas, nationally, chicken pox affects approximately 4 million people annually; and
Whereas, one in every 400 persons who gets chicken pox requires hospitalization, and as
many as 90 deaths from chicken pox occur nationally each year; and

Whereas, 90% of chicken pox cases occur in children under the age of 15 years; and
Whereas, a new FDA-licensed vaccine is available and will be recommended for the
prevention of chicken pox when routinely administered to all healthy children between
the ages of 12-18 months; and

Whereas, nationally, the annual cost of care for healthy children who contract chicken
pox is estimated to be \$918,000,000 (1993 dollars); and

Whereas, cost-benefit savings in direct (medical and hospital) and indirect (loss of work
by parent) costs are estimated to be \$5.00 for each \$1.00 spent on routine childhood
immunization for chicken pox; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of nine hundred eighty-seven
thousand five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$987,525) for the 1995-96 fiscal year and the

1 sum of one million seventeen thousand two hundred nineteen dollars (\$1,017,219) for the
2 1996-97 fiscal year for the purchase of varicella vaccine for routine administration to
3 children.

4 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.