GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

S

SENATE BILL 91

Short Title: Osteoporosis Program.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Foxx, Purcell; Allran, Ballantine, Carpenter, Carrington, Carter, Clodfelter, Cochrane, Dalton, Forrester, Garrou, Garwood, Hagan, Harris, Hartsell, Horton, Kinnaird, Lucas, Metcalf, Miller, Moore, Perdue, Phillips, Rand, Robinson, Rucho, Shaw of Guilford, Warren, Weinstein, and Wellons.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

February 15, 1999

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT
THE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS.

Whereas, osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease, is a major public health problem that poses a threat to the health and quality of life of over one million North Carolinians age 50 and over; and

Whereas, each year, more than 13,000 North Carolinians are hospitalized for hip fractures alone resulting in more than \$57 million in direct medical costs; and

Whereas, one of two women and one of eight men will suffer an osteoporitic fracture in his or her lifetime; and

Whereas, because osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment are key to reducing the prevalence of this disease; and

Whereas, many consumers, physicians, health care providers, and government agencies lack knowledge in the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease; and

Whereas, experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that with greater awareness among medical experts, service providers, and the general public, osteoporosis can be prevented

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in the future, thereby reducing its prevalence, severity, and costly consequences; Now, therefore,

- 1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
- 2 Section 1. (a) Article 7 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by 3 adding the following new Part to read:
- 4

"PART 6. OSTEOPOROSIS.

5 "§ 130A-224. Department to establish program; report required.