

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 1346

Short Title: Local Health Dept. Accreditation.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to: Health & Human Resources.

May 27, 2004

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
4 VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM AND TO ESTABLISH THE
5 LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION BOARD; AND TO
6 APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 130A-2 is amended by adding the following new
9 subdivision in alphabetical order to read:

10 "**§ 130A-2. Definitions.**

11 The following definition shall apply throughout this Chapter unless otherwise
12 specified:

13 ...

14 (01) "Accreditation board" or "Board" means the Local Health Department
15 Accreditation Board."

16 **SECTION 1.(b)** Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes
17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 "**§ 130A-34.1. Accreditation of local health departments; board established.**

19 (a) All local health departments may obtain and maintain accreditation in
20 accordance with this section and with rules adopted by the Commission.

21 (b) The Local Health Department Accreditation Board is established. The Board
22 is established within the Department of Health and Human Services for budgetary
23 purposes only. The Board shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

24 (1) Eight appointed by the General Assembly, four upon recommendation
25 of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and two by each of the
26 Speakers of the House of Representatives.

27 a. Of the members recommended by the President Pro Tempore of
28 the Senate, two shall be county commissioners recommended
29 by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners,

1 and two shall be members of a local board of health as
2 recommended by the North Carolina Association of Local
3 Boards of Health.

4 b. Of the members recommended by each of the Speakers of the
5 House of Representatives, one shall be a county commissioner
6 recommended by the North Carolina Association of County
7 Commissioners, and one shall be a member of a local board of
8 health as recommended by the North Carolina Association of
9 Local Boards of Health.

10 (2) Six by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as follows:

11 a. Two local health directors.

12 b. One staff member from the Division of Public Health.

13 c. Three members at large.

14 (3) One by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, from the
15 Division of Environmental Health.

16 (c) Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board created by the resignation,
17 dismissal, ineligibility, death, or disability of any member shall be made by the original
18 appointing authority and shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. The chairman
19 shall be elected by the Board and shall designate the times and places at which the
20 Board shall meet. The Board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out its duty to
21 develop and review periodically accreditation standards, to engage in activities
22 necessary to assign accreditation status to local health departments, and to engage in
23 other activities necessary to implement this section.

24 (d) Members of the Board who are not officers or employees of the State shall
25 receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses at the rates specified in
26 G.S. 138-5. Members of the Board who are officers or employees of the State shall
27 receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence at the rate set out in G.S. 138-6.

28 (e) The Board shall assign an accreditation status to each local health department
29 that applies for initial accreditation, reaccreditation, or relief from conditional
30 accreditation. The Board shall assign the appropriate accreditation status, as follows:

31 (1) Accredited, which means that the local health department has satisfied
32 the accreditation standards adopted by the Board and applicable rules
33 adopted by the Commission.

34 (2) Conditionally accredited, which means that the local health department
35 has failed to meet one or more accreditation standards and has
36 therefore been granted short-term accreditation subject to conditions
37 specified by the Board.

38 (3) Unaccredited, which means that the local health department has
39 continued to fail to meet one or more accreditation standards after a
40 period of conditional accreditation.

41 (f) The Commission shall, after reviewing standards developed by and
42 consulting with the Board, adopt rules establishing accreditation standards for local
43 health departments. The accreditation standards shall include at least all of the
44 following:

- 1 (1) An accreditation process that consists of the following components:
2 a. A self-assessment conducted by the local health department
3 seeking accreditation. The self-assessment shall measure the
4 local health department's capacity to and performance of the
5 following essential services:
6 1. Monitoring health status to identify community health
7 problems.
8 2. Diagnosing and investigating health hazards in the
9 community.
10 3. Informing, educating, and empowering people about
11 health issues.
12 4. Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve
13 health problems.
14 5. Developing policies and plans that support individual
15 and community health efforts.
16 6. Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and
17 ensure safety.
18 7. Linking people to needed personal health care services
19 and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise
20 unavailable.
21 8. Assuring a competent public health workforce and
22 personal health care workforce.
23 9. Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of
24 personal and population-based health services.
25 b. A site visit by a team of experts to clarify, verify, and amplify
26 the information in the self-assessment.
27 c. Final action by the Board on the local health department's
28 accreditation status.
29 (2) The local health department's capacity to provide the essential public
30 health services as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and
31 Prevention.
32 (3) The local health department's facilities and administration. The review
33 shall address, at a minimum:
34 a. Adequacy of facilities for services provided.
35 b. Hours of operation that are adequate for access to essential
36 services.
37 c. Mechanisms for assessing quality of services.
38 (4) The local health department's staff competencies and training
39 procedures or programs. The review shall address, at a minimum:
40 a. Licensing, certification, and registration requirements.
41 b. Continuing education.
42 c. Orientation.
43 (5) The local health department's governance. The review shall address, at
44 a minimum, policies on:

- 1 a. Budgeting, accounting, fee-setting, and purchasing.
2 b. Other financial management activities that assure accountability
3 for funds.
- 4 (g) The Board shall assign the following accreditation status, as applicable:
5 (1) "Accredited" to a local health department that satisfies the
6 accreditation standards and rules adopted by the Commission. The
7 initial period of accreditation shall expire four calendar years after
8 initial accreditation is granted.
9 (2) "Conditionally accredited" to a local health department that, in its
10 initial accreditation application, fails to satisfy the accreditation
11 standards and rules adopted by the Commission. The period of
12 conditional accreditation shall expire two calendar years after
13 conditional accreditation is granted. The Board shall provide to the
14 local health department a written statement of the conditions that must
15 be satisfied in order for the local health department to be accredited. At
16 any time during the two-year period, the local health department may
17 request that its status be reviewed and changed from "conditionally
18 accredited" to "accredited." If the Board finds that the conditions have
19 been met, the Board shall change the local health department's status to
20 "accredited" with the accreditation period to expire four calendar years
21 after the conditional accreditation was initially granted. If the Board
22 finds that the conditions have not been satisfied, the local health
23 department shall continue under its grant of conditional accreditation.
24 (3) "Unaccredited" to the local health department if, at the end of the
25 conditional accreditation period, the department fails to meet the
26 accreditation standards at that time.
- 27 (h) Each accredited local health department shall apply for reaccreditation before
28 the initial period of accreditation expires. If a local health department fails to apply for
29 reaccreditation in a timely manner, the Board shall change the local health department's
30 status to "unaccredited."
- 31 (i) When the Board assigns the status "unaccredited" to a local health
32 department, the Board shall send written notification of that status to the local health
33 department and to the Secretary.
- 34 (j) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this act."

35 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
36 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of two hundred fifty-five thousand
37 five hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$255,597) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. These
38 funds shall be allocated for administrative costs and for activities of the Accreditation
39 Board for the accreditation of six or fewer local health departments. The Department
40 may provide for the accreditation of additional local health departments if non-State
41 funds are obtained for this purpose.

42 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.