

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 42*

Short Title: Justus-Warren Task Force Recommendations. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Purcell; Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Cowell, Dannelly, Dorsett, Forrester, Garrou, Graham, Kinnaird, Malone, Nesbitt, Rand, and Swindell.

Referred to: Health Care.

February 12, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE
3 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE
4 JUSTUS-WARREN HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION TASK
5 FORCE.

6 Whereas, the Stroke Advisory Council was established by the Justus-Warren
7 Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force to advise the Task Force regarding the
8 development of a statewide system of stroke care; and

9 Whereas, North Carolina is one of only four states funded by the Centers for
10 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate a stroke registry within the Paul
11 Coverdell National Stroke Registry initiative; and

12 Whereas, the North Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry has received
13 commendations from the CDC for stroke care performance measures and the sustained
14 improvement in quality that has been achieved by participating NC registry hospitals;
15 and

16 Whereas, monitoring care for stroke patients is an essential component of any
17 system of care in this State; and

18 Whereas, timely and appropriate stroke treatment is essential to improving
19 stroke patient outcomes; and

20 Whereas, it is critical to engage community groups in high need areas to
21 assist in disseminating and reinforcing awareness messages and materials; Now,
22 therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly supports the recommendations of the
25 Stroke Advisory Council, as approved by the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke
26 Prevention Task Force. To this end, certain of the Stroke Advisory Council's

1 Preliminary Findings and Recommendations for a NC System of Stroke Care, January,
2 2007, shall be carried out as follows:

3 (1) The Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force
4 shall work with health care providers across the State to establish a
5 system of regionally distributed and locally determined stroke care
6 networks for the State.

7 (2) The Stroke Advisory Council shall include in its comprehensive plan
8 for 2008 a process for identifying and disseminating information about
9 Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
10 (JCAHO) certified primary stroke centers in order to assist in the
11 configuration and operation of regional systems of stroke care.

12 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
13 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of four
14 hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of four
15 hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall
16 be used to match existing federal funds for the NC Collaborative Stroke Registry to
17 increase North Carolina hospital participation in the registry, particularly those hospitals
18 in high stroke/low resource areas of the State.

19 **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
20 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of one
21 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of
22 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These
23 funds shall be allocated to the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch to contract
24 with Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to work with the North Carolina
25 Collaborative Stroke Registry to develop and carry out professional workforce
26 development, training, and communications initiatives among hospitals, emergency
27 medical services responders, 911 operators, and other stakeholders.

28 **SECTION 2.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
29 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of three
30 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of three
31 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall
32 be allocated to the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch for the development and
33 implementation of public awareness campaigns and communication strategies on stroke
34 signs and symptoms and the importance of immediate response.

35 **SECTION 2.(d)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
36 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of ten
37 thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of ten thousand
38 dollars (\$10,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated to the
39 Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch to conduct a follow-up survey and gap
40 analysis designed to provide a current assessment of stroke prevention and treatment
41 services in the State. The purpose of these funds is to assist in the development of a
42 comprehensive stroke care system plan.

43 **SECTION 2.(e)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
44 Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force the sum of fifty

1 thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of fifty thousand
2 dollars (\$50,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated for
3 operations of the Stroke Advisory Council.

4 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2007. The
5 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.