

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 42*
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 3/19/07**

Short Title: Justus-Warren Task Force Recommendations.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 12, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
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 General Assembly directed the Justus-Warren Heart Disease
7 and Stroke Prevention Task Force to establish a Stroke Advisory Council to advise the
8 Task Force regarding the development of a statewide system of stroke care; and

9 Whereas, monitoring the level and quality of care for stroke patients is an
10 essential component of any system of care in this State; and

11 Whereas, several stroke care monitoring and quality improvement tools such
12 as the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines – Stroke and the North
13 Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry are available to North Carolina hospitals; and

14 Whereas, employing either of these tools can help improve a hospital's level
15 and quality of care for stroke patients; and

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

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

23 Whereas, timely and appropriate stroke treatment is essential to improving
24 stroke patient outcomes; and

25 Whereas, the NC Office of Emergency Medical Service (NCOEMS) Stroke
26 Toolkit will enhance EMS capacity for timely and appropriate stroke care; and

27 Whereas, it is critical to engage community groups in high need areas to
28 assist in disseminating and reinforcing awareness messages and materials; Now,
29 therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly supports the recommendations of the
3 Stroke Advisory Council, as approved by the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke
4 Prevention Task Force. To this end, certain of the Stroke Advisory Council's
5 Preliminary Findings and Recommendations for a NC System of Stroke Care, January
6 2007, shall be carried out as follows:

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

11 (2) The Stroke Advisory Council shall include in its comprehensive plan
12 for 2008 a process for identifying and disseminating information about
13 primary stroke centers certified by the Joint Commission on
14 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) or other
15 nationally recognized accrediting body in order to assist in the
16 configuration and operation of regional systems of stroke care.

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

24 **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of one
26 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of
27 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These
28 funds shall be allocated to the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch to contract
29 with entities such as Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and NCOEMS to work
30 with the North Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry and the American Stroke
31 Association to carry out professional workforce development, training, and
32 communications initiatives among hospitals, emergency medical services responders,
33 911 operators, and other stakeholders.

34 **SECTION 2.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
35 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of three
36 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of three
37 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall
38 be allocated to the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch for the implementation
39 of public awareness campaigns and communication strategies in partnership with the
40 American Stroke Association on stroke signs and symptoms and the importance of
41 immediate response.

42 **SECTION 2.(d)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
43 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of ten
44 thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of ten thousand

1 dollars (\$10,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated to the
2 Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Branch in partnership with the American Stroke
3 Association, the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, and the North Carolina
4 Hospital Association to conduct a follow-up survey and gap analysis designed to
5 provide a current assessment of stroke prevention and treatment services in the State.
6 The purpose of these funds is to assist in the development of a comprehensive stroke
7 care system plan.

8 **SECTION 2.(e)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force the sum of fifty
10 thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of fifty thousand
11 dollars (\$50,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated for
12 operations of the Stroke Advisory Council.

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