

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 1147*

Short Title: Funds to Prevent Infant Mortality. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Purcell; Allran, Atwater, and Forrester.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 17, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PREVENT INFANT MORTALITY IN NORTH
3 CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, the 2008 infant mortality rate in North Carolina was 8.2 infant deaths per
5 1,000 live births; and

6 Whereas, there has been a 35% decline in this rate in the past two decades, North
7 Carolina still ranks 44th among the states; and

8 Whereas, much of the decline in the infant mortality rate can be attributed to an
9 array of services that were either eliminated or reduced in the 2009-2010 budget; and

10 Whereas, the NC Child Fatality Task Force recommends that no further reductions
11 be made to the critical services aimed at preventing infant mortality; Now, therefore,
12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
14 Health and Human Services, Division of Health Services, the sum of one million three hundred
15 eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$1,387,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to be allocated as
16 follows:

- 17 (1) \$350,000 for the March of Dimes to continue to provide outreach,
18 educational materials, and vitamins through the NC Folic Acid Campaign to
19 reduce the occurrence of neural tube defects.
- 20 (2) \$330,000 for the East Carolina School of Medicine to continue to operate a
21 high-risk maternity clinic to improve the birth outcomes of women in the 29
22 eastern counties.
- 23 (3) \$150,000 for the Healthy Start Foundation to continue to provide education
24 and public awareness through the Safe Sleep Campaign to reduce the
25 occurrence of SIDS and sleep-related suffocations.
- 26 (4) \$97,000 to the UNC School of Medicine to continue to provide education
27 and progesterone to reduce preterm births among low-income non-Medicaid
28 women who have already experienced at least one preterm birth.
- 29 (5) \$460,000 for the Healthy Start Foundation to continue to provide education,
30 outreach, and the distribution of materials to reduce infant mortality by
31 improving maternal health prior to and during pregnancy.

32 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
33 Medical Assistance, shall not lower the current provider reimbursement rates for prenatal and
34 maternity care, as well as maternity care coordination.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2010.

