

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE BILL 549

Short Title: Study Reg. Health Authorities/Data Analytics. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hartsell (Primary Sponsor); and Hise.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO STUDY THE METHODOLOGY BY WHICH TO MOVE THE STATE
2 PUBLIC HEATH SYSTEM FROM A COUNTY-BASED SYSTEM TO A SYSTEM
3 INVOLVING THREE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND TO
4 STUDY THE CREATION OF A STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ANALYTICS
5 CENTER.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services, the Commission for
9 Public Health, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall collaborate and
10 study the methodology by which to move the public health system from a county-based system
11 to a system involving three regional public health authorities. These three regional public health
12 authorities shall be supported by one State agency or board. This study shall include
13 information on the following:

- 14 (1) An evaluation of the publicly financed public health service delivery
15 structure in North Carolina, including identification of State, local, public,
16 and private entities engaged in activities contributing to health outcomes,
17 and a review of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the
18 service structure.
- 19 (2) An evaluation of the governance structure of public health and mental
20 health, including the advantages and disadvantages of current and alternative
21 governance models.
- 22 (3) An evaluation of the three geographic areas that would be most
23 appropriately combined to form three regional public health authorities.
- 24 (4) Identification of the various health services currently performed by counties
25 within the State and how these functions may be streamlined under a
26 regional public health authority system.
- 27 (5) An evaluation of the functions that would be best delegated to the regional
28 public health authorities and functions that would be best retained by a State
29 agency or board supporting the regional public health authorities.

30 The report, including any recommendations, shall be submitted to the Program Evaluation
31 Division no later than December 1, 2015.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Insurance, the Division in the Department of the
33 State Treasurer responsible for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, the
34 Department of Health and Human Services, the Commission for Public Health, and the
35 Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall collaborate and study the creation of a



1 health improvement analytics center to conduct advanced mining of large data sets. This study
2 shall include information on the following:

- 3 (1) The extent and quality of available public health indicators, including
4 collection methods, comprehensiveness, validity, accessibility and
5 availability for research, and use in continuous improvement of public health
6 policies, and an analysis of costs associated with improving deficient data
7 reporting systems.
- 8 (2) The development of simulation models to test public health policies and
9 scenarios.
- 10 (3) Methods by which public health data from non-State entities may be
11 obtained and utilized by a health improvement analytics center.
- 12 (4) Areas in which public health population data is currently lacking.

13 The report, including any recommendations, shall be submitted to the Program Evaluation
14 Division no later than December 1, 2015.

15 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.