A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENSURE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES FOR FEMALE PRISONERS AND
DETAINEES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
Article to read:

"Article 84C.
§ 15A-1369.10. Definitions.

As used in this Article:

(1) "Correctional institution" means any unit of the State prison system, local
confinement facility, juvenile detention facility, or other entity under the
authority of any State or local law enforcement agency that has the power to
detain or restrain a person under the laws of this State.

(2) "Corrections official" means the official that is responsible for oversight of a
correctional institution or that official's designee.

(3) "Detainee" includes any person detained under the immigration laws of the
United States at any correctional facility.

(4) "Extraordinary circumstance" means a substantial flight risk or some other
extraordinary medical or security circumstance that dictates restraints be
used to ensure the safety and security of the prisoner or detainee, the staff of
the correctional institution or medical facility, other prisoners or detainees,
or the public.

(5) "Labor" means the period of time before a birth during which contractions
are of sufficient frequency, intensity, and duration to bring about effacement
and progressive dilation of the cervix.

(6) "Postpartum recovery" means, as determined by a woman's physician, the
period immediately following delivery, including the entire period a woman
is in the hospital or infirmary after giving birth.

(7) "Prisoner" means any person incarcerated or detained in any facility who is
accused of, convicted of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for,
violations of criminal law or the terms and conditions of parole, probation,
pretrial release, or diversionary program.

(8) "Restraints" means any physical restraint or mechanical device used to
control the movement of a prisoner or detainee's body or limbs.
§ 15A-1369.11. Restraint of prisoners and detainees.

(a) A correctional institution shall not use restraints on a prisoner or detainee known to be pregnant, including during labor, transport to a medical facility, delivery, and postpartum recovery, unless the corrections official makes an individualized determination that the prisoner or detainee presents an extraordinary circumstance, except that:

(1) If the doctor, nurse, or other health professional treating the prisoner or detainee requests that restraints not be used, the corrections officer accompanying the prisoner or detainee shall immediately remove all restraints.

(2) Under no circumstances shall leg or waist restraints be used on any prisoner or detainee who is in labor or delivery.

(b) If restraints are used on a prisoner or detainee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section:

(1) The type of restraint applied and the application of the restraint shall be accomplished in the least restrictive manner necessary.

(2) The corrections official shall make written findings within 10 days as to the extraordinary circumstance that dictated the use of the restraints. These findings shall be kept on file by the correctional institution for at least five years and be made available for public inspection, except that no individually identifying information of any prisoner or detainee shall be made public under this Article without the prisoner or detainee’s prior written consent.

SECTION 2. All correctional facilities in the State shall develop the rules mandated under this act within 30 days of the date this act becomes law and shall inform prisoners and detainees within their custody of those rules within 60 days of the date this act becomes law.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) in recurring funds to be allocated to policy implementation, education, and training of the procedures outlined in Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.