

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION BILL 887

Sponsors: Senator Block.

Referred to: Rules.

April 17, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATE
3 TREATMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN BELONGING
4 TO THE CLASS KNOWN AS "WILLIE M."

5 Whereas, the 1985 General Assembly made legislative findings in Section 85
6 of Chapter 479 of the 1985 Session Laws that there was a need in North Carolina to
7 provide appropriate treatment and education programs to children under the age of 18
8 who suffer from emotional, mental, or neurological handicaps accompanied by violent
9 or assaultive behavior; and

10 Whereas, the children meeting that criteria have been identified as a class in
11 the case initially named Willie M., **et al.** vs. Hunt, **et al.**, and currently named Willie
12 M., **et al.**, vs. Martin, **et al.**; and

13 Whereas, the 1985 General Assembly recognized in its findings that these
14 children have a need for a variety of services, in addition to those normally provided,
15 that may include but are not limited to residential treatment services, educational
16 services, and independent living arrangements; and

17 Whereas, the General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Department of
18 Public Education and the Department of Human Resources to provide services to
19 members of the Willie M. class, and those services are provided to approximately 1200
20 persons in this State; and

21 Whereas, the State has expended over one hundred forty-five million dollars
22 (\$145,000,000) on the Willie M. program since its inception, and the cost of providing

1 these services has increased by approximately fifty percent (50%) in the last four years;
2 and

3 Whereas, it is difficult to predict the rate at which the cost of providing
4 services to the Willie M. class will increase in the future;

5 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

6 Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission may study the progress
7 being made in the State in meeting the special needs of "Willie M."children, examine
8 the escalating costs of funding "Willie M."programs, and make recommendations as to
9 ways in which those costs might be lowered while continuing to provide these children
10 with appropriate education and treatment programs.

11 Sec. 2. The Legislative Research Commission may make an interim report,
12 including any recommendations, to the 1989 General Assembly, Regular Session 1990,
13 and a final report to the 1991 General Assembly.

14 Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.