

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 498
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/13/91

Short Title: Health Director Qualifications.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 1, 1991

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF
3 LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTOR, AND TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH DIRECTOR
4 QUALIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Effective January 1, 1992, G.S. 130A-40 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 130A-40. Appointment of local health director.**

8 (a) A local board of health, after consulting with the appropriate county board or
9 boards of commissioners, shall appoint a local health director. ~~The State Personnel~~
10 ~~Commission, after consulting with the Commission for Health Services, shall establish~~
11 ~~qualifications for a local health director. The qualifications shall give equal emphasis to~~
12 ~~education and experience. However, a local health director shall not be required to be a~~
13 ~~physician.~~ Effective January 1, 1992, all persons who are appointed to the position of
14 local health director on or after that date, must possess minimum education and
15 experience requirements for that position, as follows:

- 16 (1) A medical doctorate and at least one year of experience managing
17 health programs or health services; or
- 18 (2) A masters degree in Public Health Administration, and at least one
19 year of experience managing health programs or health services; or
- 20 (3) A masters degree in a public health discipline other than public health
21 administration, and at least three years of experience in managing
22 health programs or health services; or

1 (4) A masters degree in a field related to public health, and at least three
2 years of experience in managing health programs or health services.

3 (b) Before appointing a person to the position of local health director under
4 subsection (a)(4) of this section, the local board of health shall forward the application
5 and other pertinent materials of such candidate to the Local Health Director
6 Qualification Review Committee. If the Review Committee determines that the
7 candidate's masters degree is in a field not related to public health, the Review
8 Committee shall so notify the local board of health within 45 days of the Committee's
9 receipt of the application and materials, and such candidate shall be deemed not to meet
10 the education requirements of subsection (a)(4) of this section. If the Review
11 Committee fails to act upon the application within 45 days of its receipt of the
12 application and materials from the local board of health, the application shall be deemed
13 approved with respect to the education requirements of subsection (a)(4), and the local
14 board of health may proceed with its appointment process.

15 (c) When a local board of health fails to appoint a local health director within 60
16 days of the creation of a vacancy, the State Health Director may appoint a local health
17 director to serve until the local board of health appoints a local health director in
18 accordance with this section."

19 Sec. 2. Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
20 following new section to read:

21 **"§ 130A-40.1. Local Health Director Qualification Review Commttee.**

22 (a) A Local Health Director Qualification Review Committee is established
23 within the Office of State Personnel to review the education qualifications of candidates
24 for local health director positions under G.S. 130A-40(a)(4).

25 (b) The Office of State Personnel shall provide staff assistance to the Committee.

26 (c) The Committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be the
27 Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, one of whom
28 shall be the President of the Association of Local Health Directors, and one of whom
29 shall be the State Health Director.

30 (d) The Review Committee shall meet within 30 days of notification from a local
31 board of health requesting a determination on whether an applicant for the position of
32 local health director under G.S. 130A-40(a)(4) meets the education requirements of G.S.
33 130A-40(a)(4). The Review Committee shall act upon requests under its review within
34 45 days of receipt of applications and pertinent materials from the local board of health,
35 and shall notify the local board, in writing, of its decision within the 45-day period. The
36 Review Committee shall, by majority vote, determine a candidate's qualification under
37 subsection (a)(4) of this section based solely on whether the candidate's masters degree
38 field is related to public health. If the Review Committee determines that a candidate's
39 degree field is not related to public health, the Committee shall state the reasons therefor
40 in its written decision to the local board.

41 (e) The Review Committee shall review requests of educational institutions to
42 determine whether a particular masters degree offered by the requesting institution is
43 related to public health for the purposes of G.S. 130A-40(a)(4). The Review Committee
44 shall act upon such requests within 90 days of receipt of the request and pertinent

1 materials from the institution, and shall notify the institution of its determination in
2 writing within the 90-day review period. The determination shall be by majority vote of
3 the Review Committee. If the Review Committee determines that an institution's
4 particular masters degree is not related to public health, the Review Committee shall
5 include the reasons therefor in its written determination to the institution."

6 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.