

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 505

Short Title: Respite Care Change.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Green; and Hensley.

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Referred to: Human Resources.

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April 1, 1991

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING RESPITE CARE.  
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 143B-181.10 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-181.10. **Respite care program established; eligibility; services; administration; payment rates.**

(a) A respite care program is established to provide needed relief to caregivers of impaired adults who cannot be left alone because of mental or physical problems.

(b) Those eligible for respite care under the program established by this section are limited to those unpaid primary caregivers who are caring for people 60 years of age or older and their spouses, or those unpaid primary caregivers 60 years of age or older who are caring for persons 18 years of age or older, who require constant supervision and who cannot be left alone either because of memory impairment, physical immobility, or other problems that renders them unsafe alone.

(c) Respite care services provided by the programs established by this section may include:

- (1) Counseling and training in the caregiving role, including coping mechanisms and behavior modification techniques;
- (2) Counseling and accessing available local, regional, and State services;
- (3) Support group development and facilitation;
- (4) Assessment and care planning for the patient of the caregiver;
- (5) Attendance and companion services for the patient in order to provide release time to the caregiver;

- 1           (6) Personal care services, including meal preparation, for the patient of  
2           the caregiver;
- 3           (7) Temporarily placing the person out of his home to provide the  
4           caregiver total respite when the mental or physical stress on the  
5           caregiver necessitates this type of respite.

6 ~~Attendance and companion service, personal care service, and temporary placement of~~  
7 ~~the patient out of his home is limited to a maximum of 48 hours of service per month or~~  
8 ~~576 hours of service per year per primary caregiver.~~ Program funds may provide no  
9 more than the current domiciliary home reimbursement rate for out of home placement.  
10 An out of home placement is defined as placement in a hospital, skilled or intermediate  
11 nursing facility, domiciliary home, adult day health center, or adult day care center.  
12 Duration of the service period may extend beyond a year.

13       (d) The respite care program established by this section shall be administered by  
14 the Division of Aging consistent with the policies and procedures of the Older  
15 Americans Act. The programs shall be coordinated with other appropriate Divisions in  
16 the Department of Human Resources, and with agencies and organizations concerned  
17 with the delivery of services to frail older adults and their unpaid caregivers. The  
18 Division shall choose respite care provider agencies in accordance with procedures  
19 outlined under the Older Americans Act and shall include the following criteria:  
20 documented capacity to provide care, adequacy of quality assurance, training,  
21 supervision, abuse prevention, complaint mechanisms, and cost. All funds allocated by  
22 the Division pursuant to this section shall be allocated on the same basis as funding  
23 under the Older Americans Act.

24       (e) Funding for the Division of Aging to administer this program shall not exceed  
25 the percentage allowed for administration as provided in the Older Americans Act but  
26 shall not be less than that budgeted for administration in fiscal year 1988-89.

27       (f) Unless prohibited by federal law, caregivers receiving respite care services  
28 through the program established by this section shall pay for some of the services on a  
29 sliding scale depending on their ability to pay. The Division of Aging, in consultation  
30 with the Councils of Governments in each region, shall specify rates of payment for the  
31 services."

32           Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.