

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

H

1

HOUSE BILL 282\*

Short Title: Mental Health Study Comm.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; Adams, Black, Church, Crawford, Cunningham, Earle, Easterling, Fox, Gardner, Hill, Hunt, H. Hunter, Ives, Lee, Lemmond, Luebke, McAllister, McComas, McLaughlin, McMahan, G. Miller, Nye, Pate, Redwine, Rogers, Russell, Sexton, Wainwright, and G. Wilson.

---

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

---

February 23, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE MENTAL HEALTH STUDY COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The Mental Health Study Commission, established and structured by 1973 General Assembly Resolution 80; Chapter 806, 1973 Session Laws; Chapter 185, 1975 Session Laws; Chapter 184, 1977 Session Laws; Chapter 215, 1979 Session Laws; 1979 General Assembly Resolution 20; Chapter 49, 1981 Session Laws; Chapter 268, 1983 Session Laws; Chapter 792, 1985 Session Laws; Chapter 873, 1987 Session Laws; Chapter 802, 1989 Session Laws; Chapter 754, 1991 Session Laws; and Chapter 771, 1993 Session Laws, Regular Session 1994, is reestablished and authorized to continue in existence until July 1, 1997.

Sec. 2. (a) The Commission shall consist of 25 members as follows:

- (1) The Secretary of the Department of Human Resources or a delegate, serving ex officio as a nonvoting member;
- (2) Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, seven of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives at the time of their appointment. One of these seven

1 shall be a Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human  
2 Resources, and one shall be a Chair of a standing House committee that  
3 deals with mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance  
4 abuse issues;

5 (3) Eight members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
6 seven of whom shall be members of the Senate at the time of their  
7 appointment. One of these seven shall be Chair of the Senate Human  
8 Resources Appropriations Committee and one shall be Chair of a  
9 standing Senate committee that deals with mental health, developmental  
10 disabilities, and substance abuse issues; and

11 (4) Eight members appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be  
12 county commissioners at the time of their appointment, taken from a list  
13 of four candidates nominated by the North Carolina Association of  
14 County Commissioners. If the Association has failed to make  
15 nominations by September 1, 1995, the Governor may appoint any two  
16 county commissioners.

17 (b) Members and staff of the continued Mental Health Study Commission shall  
18 receive compensation and expenses delineated by the original authorization in the 1973  
19 General Assembly Resolution 80. Expenses of the Commission shall be expended by the  
20 Department of Human Resources from Budget Code 14460 subhead 1110.

21 Sec. 3. The continued Mental Health Study Commission has all the powers  
22 and duties of the original Commission as they are necessary to continue the original  
23 study, to assist in the implementation of the original and succeeding Commission  
24 recommendations, and to plan future activity on the subject of the study. In addition to  
25 other studies authorized by law, the Commission shall:

26 (1) Conduct research and develop recommendations regarding the response  
27 of the public system to the changing health care environment which  
28 recommendations shall include recommendations on issues of  
29 governance, accountability, data collection, and collaboration between  
30 public and private sectors;

31 (2) Analyze and develop recommendations regarding the current system of  
32 funding services to evaluate maximum use of funds;

33 (3) Oversee the Mental Health Study Commission ten-year Disability Plan  
34 that has been endorsed by the General Assembly;

35 (4) Evaluate quality improvement initiatives and develop recommendations  
36 regarding accountability, performance standards, and client outcomes;

37 (5) Monitor and evaluate the new initiatives, including crisis services,  
38 Carolina Alternatives, and domiciliary care, developed by the Division  
39 of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
40 Services, to consider whether to recommend their possible expansion;

41 (6) Review major initiatives for children for integration with the Child  
42 Mental Health Plan;

1           (7)    Develop a business initiative to increase public/private partnerships to  
2           enhance current services for those individuals with mental illness,  
3           developmental disabilities, and substance abuse problems; and

4           (8)    Carry out any other evaluations the Commission considers necessary to  
5           perform its mandate.

6           Sec. 4. The Mental Health Study Commission shall make a report to the 1997  
7   General Assembly, including any legislative proposals, by March 15, 1997.

8           Sec. 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.