

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 1809\***

Short Title: Improve Adult Care Home Screening and Care. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Malone, Swindell, Dorsett, Forrester; Atwater, Foriest, Jenkins, Jones, McKissick, Purcell, and Queen.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 21, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR AN ADULT CARE HOME SCREENING  
3 PROCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY  
4 CONDITIONS, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TRANSITIONAL RESIDENTIAL  
5 TREATMENT PROGRAM PILOT SITES, APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO  
6 SUPPORT ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE PLAN DEVELOPMENT IN ADULT  
7 CARE HOMES, AND TO STUDY SUITABLE METHODS TO PROVIDE  
8 DIRECT CARE WORKERS WITH TARGETED AND COST-EFFECTIVE  
9 TRAINING ON THE CARE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, AS  
10 RECOMMENDED BY THE STUDY COMMISSION ON AGING.

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
13 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of  
14 one million seven hundred sixty-four thousand dollars (\$1,764,000) for the 2008-2009  
15 fiscal year to be used to design, develop, and implement on a pilot basis, a screening  
16 process for mental health and developmental disability conditions as part of the adult  
17 care home admission process. This process shall duplicate the nursing facility  
18 admission process and shall consist of an automated screening tool, and where  
19 indicated, a face-to-face assessment by a mental health or developmental disabilities  
20 professional. The mental health and developmental disabilities screening and  
21 assessment process will be compatible with, and support, the comprehensive assessment  
22 and service planning process now being implemented by adult care home providers.

23 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division  
24 of Medical Assistance, Division of Health Service Regulation, and Division of Mental  
25 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall provide an  
26 interim report by October 15, 2008, and a final report by October 15, 2009, to the North  
27 Carolina Study Commission on Aging, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health  
28 and Human Services, and the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee

1 on Health and Human Services on the design, development, and piloting of the  
2 screening process provided in this section. The report must contain the following  
3 information:

- 4 (1) The number of individuals that received initial screening prior to adult  
5 care home admission as a result of the pilot.
- 6 (2) The number of individuals that needed and received an additional  
7 mental health evaluation as a result of the pilot.
- 8 (3) Of the individuals screened, the number admitted to an adult care  
9 home.
- 10 (4) Of the individuals screened, the number for which adult care home  
11 placement was not deemed appropriate.
- 12 (5) A process chart of the screening process for adult care home  
13 admissions, depicting who performs the screening and turnaround  
14 times for each step in the process.
- 15 (6) Information on whether preadmission screening resulted in adult care  
16 home admission delays and how these are handled.
- 17 (7) A recommendation on whether the screening process should be  
18 expanded statewide to include all individuals prior to adult care home  
19 admission.
- 20 (8) A recommendation on statutory or policy changes that are needed for  
21 statewide implementation
- 22 (9) A breakdown of costs associated with statewide implementation of a  
23 screening process.

24 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
25 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
26 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, the sum of five hundred sixty-seven  
27 thousand eighty-four dollars (\$567,084) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to be used to fund  
28 three Transitional Residential Treatment Program pilot sites which shall be located in  
29 geographically diverse regions and shall begin operation in January 2009.

30 **SECTION 3.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
31 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of  
32 five hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$580,000) to support an existing resident  
33 assessment and service plan system being implemented by adult care home providers.

34 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division  
35 of Medical Assistance and the Division of Health Service Regulation, shall provide an  
36 interim report to the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging, the Senate  
37 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the House of  
38 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services by  
39 November 1, 2008, and a final report by November 1, 2009, on assessment and service  
40 plan development for adult care home residents and the use of funding appropriated in  
41 this section.

42 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of  
43 Medical Assistance, Division of Health Service Regulation, and Division of Mental  
44 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall work with

1 adult care home providers and build on recent studies to determine the most appropriate  
2 and cost-effective way to provide training on the care of individuals with mental illness  
3 to direct care workers in adult care homes by tailoring the training to resident  
4 assessment results and utilizing Web-based formats as appropriate. The Department of  
5 Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and the Division of Health  
6 Service Regulation, shall provide an interim report to the North Carolina Study  
7 Commission on Aging, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human  
8 Services, and the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health  
9 and Human Services by November 1, 2008, and a final report by November 1, 2009, on  
10 findings and recommendations for training of direct care workers.

11 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.