

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 448
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 3/22/07
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/11/07**

Short Title: Study Older Adult Programs/Various Counties.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 5, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES, TO STUDY
4 PROGRAM AND SERVICE LEVELS AND NEEDS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN
5 BRUNSWICK, BUNCOMBE, GASTON, HENDERSON, MOORE, AND NEW
6 HANOVER COUNTIES.

7 Whereas, according to information from the Demographic Unit, Office of
8 State Budget and Management, between 2000 and 2030, population growth for the state
9 as a whole is projected at 52.5%, while the population 65 and older is expected to grow
10 123% and the population 85 and older is expected to increase 146%; and

11 Whereas, in 2005, 28 counties in North Carolina had more persons age 60
12 and older than persons age 17 and younger, and of those counties, Henderson,
13 Brunswick and Moore Counties had the largest number of 60+ persons; and

14 Whereas, it is projected that by 2030, 75 of North Carolina's counties will
15 have more persons age 60 and older than 17 and younger, and of those counties,
16 Buncombe, New Hanover, and Gaston are projected to have the largest number of 60+
17 persons; and

18 Whereas, North Carolina has been selected as one of eight states to work with
19 the U.S. Administration on Aging to assist the Division of Aging and Adult Services
20 and the Area Agencies on Aging in developing a comprehensive planning model for
21 aging and placing an emphasis on strengthening local planning for an aging population;
22 Now, therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
25 Aging and Adult Services, shall work with the Division of Health Service Regulation;
26 Division of Medical Assistance; Division of Public Health; and the Division of Mental
27 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to study programs
28 and services for older adults in Brunswick, Buncombe, Gaston, Henderson, Moore, and

1 New Hanover Counties which currently have, or are projected by 2030 to have, the
2 largest numbers of individuals age 60+ when compared to individuals age 17 and
3 younger. In conducting the study, the Division shall utilize existing data and resources
4 and shall include the Area Agencies on Aging serving each county studied. The study
5 shall include the following for each county studied:

- 6 (1) A profile of the current older adult population.
- 7 (2) A profile of the projected growth for the older adult population.
- 8 (3) An assessment of the anticipated impact on programs and
9 services that address the needs of the older adult population.
- 10 (4) Identification of programs and services that are currently in
11 place.
- 12 (5) Identification of programs and services that are needed to meet
13 the growth projections.
- 14 (6) Current funding sources for programs and services serving the
15 older adult population.
- 16 (7) Anticipated funding needs for programs and services serving
17 the older adult population.

18 The Division shall make an interim status report on the study to the North
19 Carolina Study Commission on Aging on or before November 1, 2007. The Division
20 shall make a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before April 1,
21 2008, to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly, the North Carolina
22 Study Commission on Aging, and to the board of county commissioners of each county
23 studied.

24 **SECTION 2.** In response to the growth projections for the age 60+
25 population, the Division of Aging and Adult Services shall make recommendations on a
26 study to include all counties in North Carolina. The Division shall evaluate similar
27 studies conducted by other states and shall make recommendations on the criteria that
28 should be included and an appropriate funding level for a study to include all North
29 Carolina counties. The Division shall report findings and recommendations to the
30 North Carolina Study Commission on Aging on or before January 1, 2008.

31 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.