

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

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**SENATE BILL 243**

Short Title: DHHS/Office of Men's Health. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Forrester; Bingham, Brunstetter, Dannelly, Foriest, Goodall, Hoyle, Jones, Purcell, Smith, Stevens, and Tillman.

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Referred to: Health Care.

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February 21, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES THE OFFICE OF MEN'S HEALTH.

Whereas, a silent health crisis is affecting the health and well-being of America's men; and

Whereas, while this health crisis is of particular concern to men, it is also a concern for women regarding the health of their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers; and

Whereas, men's health is a concern for employers who pay the costs of medical care and lose productive employees; and

Whereas, men's health is a concern to federal and state governments, which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left behind; and

Whereas, appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen (PSA) exams, and blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the early detection of many problems and in increased survival rates; and

Whereas, educating men, their families, and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well as improve the health of America's men and America's overall economic well-being; and

Whereas, recent scientific studies have shown that regular medical exams, preventive screenings, regular exercise, and healthy eating habits can help save lives; and

Whereas, establishing an Office of Men's Health is needed to investigate these scientific study findings and take such further actions as may be needed to promote men's health; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1           **SECTION 1.** Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
2 the following new Article to read:

3   "Article 5A.

4   "Men's Health.

5 **"§ 130A-131.26. Office of Men's Health established.**

6       (a) There is established in the Department the Office of Men's Health. The  
7 purpose of the office is to expand the State's public health concerns and focus to include  
8 a comprehensive outlook on the overall health status of men. The primary goals of the  
9 Office shall be the prevention of disease and improvement in the quality of life for men  
10 over their entire lifespan. The Department shall develop strategies for achieving these  
11 goals which shall include, but not be limited to:

12           (1) Developing a strategic plan to improve public services and programs  
13 targeting men;

14           (2) Conducting policy analyses on specific issues related to men's health;

15           (3) Facilitating communication among the Department's programs and  
16 between the Department and external men's health groups and  
17 community-based organizations;

18           (4) Building public health awareness and capacity regarding men's health  
19 issues by providing a series of services including evaluation,  
20 recommendation, technical assistance, and training; and

21           (5) Developing initiatives for modification or expansion of health services  
22 oriented towards men's health issues with the intent of establishing  
23 meaningful public/private partnerships in the future.

24       (b) The Office shall study the feasibility of establishing initiatives for:

25           (1) Early intervention services for men infected with HIV; and

26           (2) Outreach, treatment, and follow-up services to men at high risk for  
27 contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

28 In conducting the study, the Department shall take into consideration related services  
29 already in place in the Department and at the local level."

30       **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall use funds  
31 available for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 fiscal years to implement this act.

32       **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.