

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

**H**

**D**

**HOUSE DRH10719-LL-206 (3/24)**

Short Title:   Expand Chemical Dependency Treatment Beds. (Public)

---

Sponsors:   Representatives Sutton and Yongue (Primary Sponsors).

---

Referred to:

---

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FOR  
3 EXPANSION OF MALE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT BEDS.

4           Whereas, the State of North Carolina has an interest in promoting the treatment of  
5 inmates with alcohol and drug dependencies; and

6           Whereas, drug and alcohol dependency disorders represent a serious and costly  
7 health problem for the citizens of North Carolina; and

8           Whereas, certain programs are effective in the treatment of inmates with drug and  
9 alcohol addiction, therefore reducing recidivism; and

10          Whereas, substance abuse problems drive many rearrests; and

11          Whereas, inmates who are provided intensive treatment and have the opportunity to  
12 be enrolled in skills training and work release programs are less likely to return to prison; and

13          Whereas, empirical data suggest that 64% of inmates have a substance dependency  
14 problem and are incarcerated because of crimes related to drugs or alcohol; and

15          Whereas, programs designed to provide intensive treatment combined with skills  
16 training, the teaching of life-learning skills, and the provision of employment opportunities  
17 allow offenders the opportunity to develop sound workplace skills; and

18          Whereas, these efforts can lead to employment opportunities toward the latter part  
19 of offenders' sentences through which they can begin court-ordered restitution payments and  
20 repay a portion of the costs of incarceration; and

21          Whereas, prison population projections have increased, resulting in a need for  
22 additional beds, including minimum custody beds; and

23          Whereas, estimated construction costs for a minimum custody bed range from  
24 \$62,000 to \$83,000 per bed; and

25          Whereas, the Department of Correction is expected to request additional beds during  
26 the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

27          Whereas, maximizing the existing capacity of male contractual drug treatment  
28 facilities will result in a cost avoidance of \$62,000 to \$83,000 per bed; Now, therefore,  
29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

30           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
31 Correction the sum of one million nine hundred eleven thousand five hundred ninety-six dollars  
32 (\$1,911,596) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and the sum of two million five hundred forty-eight  
33 thousand seven hundred ninety-five dollars (\$2,548,795) for the 2010-2011 year to maximize  
34 capacity and provide contractual intensive drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment to male  
35 inmates who have been diagnosed as needing such treatment through the assessment tools used



1 by the Department of Correction. It is expected that this appropriation shall reduce the need for  
2 construction of additional minimum custody beds required by the Department of Correction  
3 through full utilization of contractual drug and alcohol treatment bed space currently available,  
4 thereby providing an estimated cost avoidance of between six million two hundred thousand  
5 dollars (\$6,200,000) and eight million three hundred thousand dollars (\$8,300,000) in  
6 construction costs. Additionally, this appropriation shall be used to provide a skills component  
7 and a work release component, to improve inmates' educational level, and to provide a family  
8 component that improves parenting skills of inmates. Inmates assigned to such treatment shall  
9 begin their program of treatment during their last 18 months to two years of incarceration.

10 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of Correction shall review existing procedures to  
11 monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of intensive treatment to inmates and the level and  
12 quality of intensive treatment provided, the rate of recidivism, the inmates' efforts and  
13 successes in improving their educational level and skills training, and income earned during  
14 their last 12-18 months. The Secretary shall modify these procedures as necessary to ensure a  
15 more thorough assessment of the treatment provided. A report shall be provided to the Speaker  
16 of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chairs of the  
17 Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety,  
18 the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Fiscal Research  
19 Division by May 1, 2010.

20 **SECTION 3.** This act shall not be construed to affect existing contracts with  
21 providers of drug and alcohol rehabilitation to inmates.

22 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.