

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE BILL 1321\***

Short Title: NCIOM Studies/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Nesbitt; and Atwater.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF  
2 MEDICINE TO COMPLETE ITS CURRENT STUDIES AND TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
3 FORCE TO STUDY THE NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH  
4 PROBLEMS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT  
5 LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,  
6 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.  
7

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina  
10 Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in  
11 recurring funds for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. These funds shall be used by NCIOM to  
12 complete the following Task Force studies authorized in Section 10.78(ff) of S.L. 2009-451:

- 13 (1) The availability of Medicaid and State-funded mental health, developmental  
14 disabilities, and substance abuse services to active duty, reserve, and veteran  
15 members of the military and National Guard. The study should discuss the  
16 current availability of services, the extent of use, and any gaps in services.
- 17 (2) The Health Access Study Group on issues related to cost, quality, and access  
18 to appropriate and affordable health care for all North Carolinians, and the  
19 impact of federal health-related legislation on costs, quality, and access to  
20 health care.
- 21 (3) Short-term and long-term strategies to address issues within adult care  
22 homes that provide residence to persons who are frail and elderly and to  
23 persons suffering from mental illness.

24 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina  
25 Institute of Medicine the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the  
26 2010-2011 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to convene a Task Force to study the needs of  
27 young children with mental health problems and their families. The Task Force shall:

- 28 (1) Examine the current mental health needs of young children, defined as  
29 children from birth to age five.
- 30 (2) Examine existing public and private systems of mental health care that are  
31 currently available to families of young children with mental health  
32 problems.
- 33 (3) Identify evidence-based and promising universal, selective, and indicated  
34 prevention strategies to promote the emotional well-being of young children.
- 35 (4) Identify strategies for early screening and identification of young children  
36 with mental health risk factors or mental health problems. The screening and



1 identification strategies shall address the impact of parents' behavioral health  
2 problems on the mental health of their young children.

3 (5) Review evidence-based and promising interventions and systems to promote  
4 the positive mental health and emotional well-being of young children and  
5 their families.

6 (6) Identify strategies to ensure that children who are at high risk of developing  
7 mental health problems and their families have access to a comprehensive  
8 range of treatments and services, coordinated across agencies and service  
9 systems that are (i) culturally, linguistically, and developmentally sensitive;  
10 (ii) individualized; (iii) family-centered; (iv) home-, school-, and  
11 community-based; and (v) evidence-based.

12 (7) Examine workforce adequacy and training needs of mental health  
13 professionals and other professionals who provide services to young children  
14 and their families.

15 (8) Examine the adequacy of State and other funding to support a  
16 comprehensive array of evidence-based services.

17 (9) Recommend strategies to develop, evaluate, and disseminate treatment and  
18 service delivery models to meet young children's mental health needs.

19 (10) Examine any other issue that the NCIOM deems relevant to the study.

20 **SECTION 2.(b)** The NCIOM shall make an interim report to the Joint Legislative  
21 Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
22 Services no later than January 15, 2012, which may include legislative and other  
23 recommendations, and shall issue its final report with findings, recommendations, and any  
24 proposed legislation to the 2013 General Assembly upon its convening.

25 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2010.