

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 208
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 4/2/09
Third Edition Engrossed 4/9/09
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/17/09

Short Title: People First.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 18, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PERTAINING TO STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REFERENCES
3 TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to refer to a person with a
6 disability as a person first when directing the drafting of statutes and resolutions. The
7 Legislative Services Office shall incorporate into its drafting training of legislative drafters the
8 preference to avoid language that implies a person as a whole is disabled, equates a person with
9 his or her condition, or is regarded as derogatory or demeaning. The Arc of North Carolina
10 shall provide a list of nationally recognized descriptors to the Legislative Services Office to be
11 used in this training.

12 **SECTION 2.** The General Statutes Commission shall recommend to the 2010
13 reconvened session of the 2009 General Assembly and to the 2011 Regular Session of the
14 General Assembly any statutory changes and drafting policies needed to make the General
15 Statutes and administrative rules refer to a person with a disability as a person first. The goal of
16 such revisions shall be to avoid language that implies a person as a whole is disabled, equates a
17 person with his or her condition, or is regarded as derogatory or demeaning. In making
18 recommendations, the General Statutes Commission shall distinguish those instances where a
19 word or phrase is required by federal law or regulation, is describing a medical diagnosis, or is
20 referring to nonliving entities such as facilities, organizations, programs, services, or zone
21 designations.

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

