

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE DRS35131-LN-107 (3/5)**

Short Title:   Mental Health Services Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors:    Senator Goss.

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Referred to:

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1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE URGENT PRIORITY FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
3 SERVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
6 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and  
7 Substance Abuse Services, the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 2009-2010  
8 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated as follows:

- 9           (1) \$1,000,000 for individuals with mental illness who are also deaf. Of these  
10 funds:
- 11           a. \$200,000 shall be allocated for increasing the availability of  
12 interpreting services;
- 13           b. \$480,000 shall be allocated for sign language instruction, prevention  
14 materials, staff training, and broadband connections for video relay  
15 services; and
- 16           c. \$320,000 shall be allocated for a six-bed group home to serve deaf  
17 adults in Wake County as a step down from the inpatient unit at  
18 Broughton Hospital.
- 19           (2) \$1,000,000 for peer support positions in drop-in centers, to help people find  
20 housing, to help with readjustments after jail, prison, or time spent as an  
21 inpatient and in recovery centers.
- 22           (3) \$500,000 to establish a pilot for Center for Excellence in conjunction with  
23 the University and Community College systems to promote  
24 evidence-based/best practice models and methods of mental health/mental  
25 illness treatment across the State.
- 26           (4) \$500,000 for jail diversion programs for individuals with mental illness.  
27 These funds would expand model Jail Diversion programs that keep  
28 individuals with mental illness out of the criminal justice system and in  
29 community-based treatment programs.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.

