

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

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**SENATE BILL 101**

Short Title: Perinatal Quality Care Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Atwater; Allran, Bingham, Jones, Kinnaird, Purcell, and Robinson.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

February 23, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS TO  
3 REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN NORTH CAROLINA, AS  
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE.

5 Whereas, the 2009 infant mortality rate in North Carolina was 7.9 infant deaths per  
6 1,000 live births; and

7 Whereas, though the infant mortality rate has declined in the past two decades,  
8 North Carolina still ranks 44<sup>th</sup> among the states; and

9 Whereas, applied research specifically targeted to components of infant mortality,  
10 such as prematurity and sudden infant death syndrome, has the potential to reduce infant  
11 mortality and morbidity dramatically; and

12 Whereas, the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force endorses such projects  
13 because they also have shown a more than 300% return on investment; Now, therefore,  
14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
16 Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health and Community Care, the sum of five  
17 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred  
18 thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year to be allocated to the Perinatal  
19 Quality Care Initiative of North Carolina (PQCNC) at the University of North Carolina at  
20 Chapel Hill School of Medicine to fund applied research projects to help reduce infant  
21 mortality and morbidity in the State.

22 **SECTION 2.** In conjunction with the Office of Rural Health and Community Care,  
23 Community Care of North Carolina and in support of the Division of Medical Assistance's  
24 Pregnancy Home Initiative, PQCNC shall adopt annual plans of work that include applied  
25 research projects with health care providers and hospitals aimed at reducing infant mortality  
26 and morbidity across the State. PQCNC shall submit to the Office of Rural Health and  
27 Community Care and the General Assembly progress reports on each project, including  
28 outcomes and estimations of returns on investment.

29 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.

