

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

**S**

**D**

**SENATE DRS15128-SQ-11 (03/05)**

Short Title:   Regional Public Health Authority Pilot.

(Public)

Sponsors:    Senator Hartsell.

Referred to:

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE LOCAL PUBLIC  
3 HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM BY DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
4 AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR SMALL COUNTY  
5 HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO BECOME REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
6 AUTHORITIES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8           **SECTION 1.** The Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission shall allocate from  
9 available Health and Wellness Trust Fund funds in the 2011-2012 fiscal year the sum of up to  
10 six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to the Department of Health and Human Services, which shall  
11 be credited to a nonreverting account within the Department. Funds in the account shall be used  
12 to establish and promote the formation of regional public health authorities through the  
13 provision of the incentive funding pilot established by the Department of Health and Human  
14 Services, Division of Public Health, in accordance with this act.

15           **SECTION 2.** The Department shall implement a regional public health authority  
16 incentive funding pilot program as follows: (i) Counties shall create a public health authority  
17 in accordance with G.S. 130A-45.02(b); (ii) to qualify for incentive funding, the regional  
18 authority shall provide health services in a catchment that includes either a minimum of 15  
19 counties or contains a minimum population of 500,000. Counties with populations of 500,000  
20 or more shall be eligible to receive incentive funding only if they combine with another county;  
21 (iii) regions should coincide with boundaries of other preexisting health relevant districts and  
22 planning regions whenever possible; (iv) incentive funds shall be allocated to each county  
23 within the region with a minimum allocation of two dollars (\$2.00) per capita per year; (v)  
24 funding shall be limited to three consecutive yearly allocations; (vi) incentive funds shall be  
25 granted only after adoption of resolutions required to create the new regional health authority in  
26 accordance with G.S. 130A-45.02. Disbursement of funds shall be initiated at the beginning of  
27 the fiscal year following the creation of the new regional health authority. Any county that  
28 receives incentive funding pursuant to this section shall return one-third of the total incentive  
29 funding received if the county leaves the authority in order to operate as a single county health  
30 department.

31           **SECTION 3.** The Department shall report by May 1, 2012, on the progress of the  
32 pilot project and shall include a review of the capacity of small counties to meet the core public  
33 health functions mandated by current State and federal law and whether the State should  
34 establish minimum populations for local health departments. The Department shall submit the  
35 report to the Public Health Study Commission, the House of Representatives Appropriations



- 1 Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health  
2 and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.  
3           **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.