

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS35184-MG-103 (03/16)

Short Title: Increase Access to MH Services. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Barefoot (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY A  
3 PUBLIC-PRIVATE HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE ACCESS TO  
4 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; AND ALLOWING STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS  
5 TO TRANSFER BEDS TO PRIVATE, RURAL HOSPITALS WITHOUT CERTIFICATE  
6 OF NEED REVIEW IN ORDER TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH  
7 SERVICES.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1.(a) The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) shall study the  
10 feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a partnership between State-operated hospitals and  
11 private, underutilized rural hospitals for the purpose of increasing access to services for the  
12 diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental illness.

13 SECTION 1.(b) The LRC shall report its findings, together with any recommended  
14 legislation, to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly upon its convening.

15 SECTION 2. G.S. 131E-176(16)c. reads as rewritten:

16 "(16) "New institutional health services" means any of the following:

17 ...

18 c. Any change in bed capacity as defined in  
19 G.S. 131E-176(5).G.S. 131E-176(5), except for a change in bed  
20 capacity that results from the transfer of beds from a State-operated  
21 hospital to a private, rural hospital for the purpose of providing  
22 services for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental  
23 illness.

24 ...."

25 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act is effective when this act becomes law. Section 2  
26 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to changes in bed capacity occurring  
27 on or after that date.

