

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H.R. 715  
Apr 10, 2017  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION DRHR40323-MG-42 (02/01)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield, Earle, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).

---

Referred to:

---

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PRIORITIZE  
2 EFFORTS TO EXAMINE AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE EVIDENCE-BASED  
3 METHODS FOR ENSURING THAT ADULTS WITH ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE  
4 USE DISORDERS RECEIVE NEEDED TREATMENT AND SERVICES.

5 Whereas, according to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted  
6 by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, approximately  
7 11.3 million adults age 26 or older had an alcohol use disorder in the past year, which  
8 represents 5.4% of the adults in this age group, and approximately 4.4 million adults aged 26 or  
9 older had an illicit substance use disorder in the past year, which represents 2.1% of adults aged  
10 26 or older; and

11 Whereas, while every state faces its own unique and serious alcohol and substance  
12 use disorder issues, North Carolina faces death rates much higher than the national average, as  
13 evidenced by the facts that excessive consumption of alcohol is the third leading preventable  
14 cause of death in North Carolina and the rate of fatal substance use overdoses in some North  
15 Carolina counties are among the worst in the country; and

16 Whereas, one of the most tragic aspects of these statistics is that deaths attributed to  
17 alcohol and substance use disorders are entirely preventable with proper treatment and services;  
18 and

19 Whereas, the number of individuals who undergo treatment for alcohol and  
20 substance use disorders is not nearly as high as the number of individuals who have these  
21 disorders because they fail to seek, or decline, treatment and services due to the anticipated  
22 negative impact upon their personal freedom, their relationships with family members and  
23 friends, their careers, and their image in the community; and

24 Whereas, it is difficult to persuade individuals who are in serious and immediate  
25 need of treatment and services, but do not meet the legal standard for involuntary commitment  
26 to those services, to seek help; and

27 Whereas, guardianship laws do not ensure that individuals with alcohol and  
28 substance use disorders receive and accept needed treatment and services; Now, therefore,  
29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

30 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to prioritize efforts to  
31 examine and implement innovative evidence-based methods, other than guardianship and  
32 involuntary commitment, for ensuring that adults in need of assistance with recovery from  
33 alcohol and substance use disorders receive compassionate and effective treatment and care.

34 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

