

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 262\***

Short Title: MH Oversight Study Integration of Care. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Foxx, Metcalf, Allran, Dannelly, Lucas, Purcell; Apodaca, Ballantine, Brock, Carpenter, Clodfelter, Dorsett, Horton, Kinnaird, Queen, and Soles.

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Referred to: Health and Human Resources.

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March 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON  
3 MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE  
4 ABUSE SERVICES TO STUDY INTEGRATION OF CARE FOR CHILDREN  
5 WITH MULTIPLE SYSTEM SERVICE NEEDS.

6       Whereas, current governmental services to children with multiple service  
7 needs are characterized by duplicated and often conflicting assessments, barriers to  
8 timely and appropriate access to services, and lack of satisfactory outcomes; and

9       Whereas, individual service agencies have missions that differ from one  
10 another and these differences inhibit meaningful interagency collaboration and  
11 appropriate access to services; and

12       Whereas, agencies serve children that meet the individual agency's eligibility  
13 criteria, the problem of appropriate access is most acute with children who have  
14 multiple problems but are denied services by one or more agencies; and

15       Whereas, new models have emerged for implementing effective service  
16 delivery, including blended funding, interagency case management, lead agency  
17 delivery, and joint purchasing; and

18       Whereas, North Carolina has not revamped its approaches to children with  
19 multisystem involvement beyond interagency planning, although some local entities  
20 have developed innovative approaches; Now, therefore,  
21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22       **SECTION 1.(a)** The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental  
23 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services ("Oversight  
24 Committee") shall study issues pertaining to the integration of care for children with  
25 multiple system service needs. In conducting the study, the Oversight Committee shall  
26 do the following:

- 1 (1) Study state-of-the-art approaches to services to children with multiple  
2 system service needs as the basis of reform in North Carolina.
- 3 (2) Survey and analyze evidence-based best practices in North Carolina  
4 and elsewhere for potential systemwide adoption.
- 5 (3) Identify barriers to access for developing a uniform access process to  
6 implement a "no wrong door" policy such that children and families  
7 may enter any service access point but will be afforded seamless  
8 access to all necessary services.
- 9 (4) Recommend changes to North Carolina service systems involving  
10 mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse  
11 services, social services, education services, juvenile justice, and other  
12 related service systems that will promote meaningful and effective  
13 interagency collaboration and satisfactory outcomes for children and  
14 families.
- 15 (5) Provide estimates on the fiscal impact of proposed changes to the  
16 service systems.

17 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Oversight Committee may hire a consultant and may  
18 establish an advisory committee to work with the consultant in conducting the study.  
19 The Cochairs of the Oversight Committee may appoint the members of the advisory  
20 committee. Membership on the advisory committee shall include representatives of the  
21 service systems involved and consumers or other members of the public at large. The  
22 Oversight Committee shall determine the extent and scope of the study in accordance  
23 with subsection (a) of this section and shall establish interim and final reporting time  
24 lines for the consultant's findings and recommendations.

25 **SECTION 1.(c)** With the prior approval of the Legislative Services  
26 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to assist in  
27 the work of the Oversight Committee and its advisory committee. With the prior  
28 approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Oversight Committee and its  
29 advisory committee may hold its meetings in the State Legislative Building or the  
30 Legislative Office Building.

31 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Oversight Committee may submit a progress report on  
32 the results of the study, including recommended legislation, to the 2003 General  
33 Assembly, Regular Session 2004, upon its reconvening, and shall report on the study,  
34 including recommended legislation, to the 2005 General Assembly, upon its convening.  
35 All reports shall be filed with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of  
36 the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Librarian. The Oversight Committee  
37 shall provide copies of its reports to system entities such as social services, juvenile  
38 justice, education, and other appropriate entities.

39 **SECTION 1.(e)** Members of the Oversight Committee and its advisory  
40 committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with  
41 G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

42 **SECTION 1.(f)** All State departments and agencies shall cooperate with the  
43 Oversight Committee and its advisory committee and, upon request, shall furnish to the

1 Oversight Committee and its staff any information in their possession or available to  
2 them.

3           **SECTION 2.** From funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the  
4 Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the expenses of the Oversight  
5 Committee, including expenses of advisory committee members and consultant costs.

6           **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.