

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 88\***

Short Title: Funds to Prevent Birth Defects.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Morris; Alexander, Barbee, Blue, Blust, Bowie, Cansler, Church, Coates, Culp, Davis, Easterling, Fox, Gulley, Harrington, Hensley, Hill, Hunter, Hurley, Insko, Jeffus, Justus, Luebke, McAllister, McLawhorn, McMahan, Nye, Owens, Preston, Rayfield, Setzer, Sexton, Sherrill, Smith, Teague, Underhill, Walend, Warren, Warwick, Weatherly, Weiss, and West.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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February 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PREVENTION OF BIRTH  
2 DEFECTS.  
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
6 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of one million one hundred fifty  
7 thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. These funds shall be used  
8 as follows:

- 9 (1) \$400,000 for the expansion of the Birth Defects Monitoring Program  
10 to cover all births in the State.  
11 (2) To provide analysis of all birth defect data.  
12 (3) To disseminate birth defect data to health care providers, public health,  
13 personnel, members of the North Carolina General Assembly, and to  
14 the general public.  
15 (4) To collect and analyze data on low-birth weight babies and premature  
16 babies.  
17 (5) \$750,000 for the Statewide Folic Acid Campaign for education and  
18 awareness activities on the importance of the consumption of folic acid  
19 in multiple vitamins preceding pregnancy to effectively prevent neural  
20 tube birth defects and infant mortality. The Folic Acid Education  
21 Campaign shall be developed in conjunction with the Governor's Folic  
22 Acid Council.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.