

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 1280*
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/22/06
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/11/06

Short Title: DHHS Evaluate Telemon/Home Care Licenses.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 11, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, TO ESTABLISH A PILOT
4 PROGRAM TO EVALUATE THE USE OF TELEMONITORING EQUIPMENT
5 FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED RECIPIENTS, AND TO PROHIBIT
6 THE ISSUING OF LICENSES FOR HOME CARE AGENCIES FOR ONE YEAR.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
9 Medical Assistance, shall implement a pilot program to evaluate the use of
10 telemonitoring equipment in home and community based services. As determined by
11 the Division, the Department shall provide remuneration to home care agencies and
12 other providers for participation in the pilot program. The pilot program shall be
13 implemented by October 1, 2006, and shall evaluate the use of telemonitoring
14 equipment as a tool to improve the health of home and community based recipients
15 through increased monitoring and responsiveness, and resulting in increased
16 stabilization rates and decreased hospitalization rates. The evaluation must include a
17 representative number of older adults. The Department shall report to the Study
18 Commission on Aging by August 1, 2007. The report shall include findings and
19 recommendations on the cost-effectiveness of telemonitoring and the benefits to
20 individuals and health care providers.

21 **SECTION 2.** Beginning January 1, 2007, and for a period of one year
22 thereafter, the Department of Health and Human Services shall not issue any licenses
23 for new home care agencies that intend to offer in-home aide services. This shall not
24 restrict the Department from issuing licenses to certified home health agencies that
25 intend to offer in-home aide services or to agencies that need a new license for an
26 existing home care agency being acquired. This will allow the Department the time
27 necessary to implement newly adopted home care rules.

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