

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

FILED SENATE
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PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15127-MTa-120

Short Title: Solving the Preceptor Crisis. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Adcock, Woodard, and Lee (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DIRECT THE NORTH CAROLINA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
PROGRAM TO STUDY IMPEDIMENTS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF
COMMUNITY-BASED PRECEPTORS.

Whereas, North Carolina must devise solutions to the healthcare preceptor crisis by
first assessing the causes and related environmental factors; Now, therefore,
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program (NC
AHEC) shall study (i) the availability of community preceptors in North Carolina and nearby
states and (ii) the demand for those preceptors, including factors that influence the supply and
barriers that community-based outpatient clinicians face in teaching healthcare professional
students. NC AHEC shall provide an interim report with its findings to the Joint Legislative
Education Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and
Human Services no later than April 1, 2024, and a final report no later than September 1, 2024.
NC AHEC shall consult with other healthcare professional organizations and boards, including,
but not limited to, the North Carolina Nurses Association, the North Carolina Academy of Family
Physicians, the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants, the North Carolina Healthcare
Association, the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the North Carolina
Medical Society, the North Carolina Pediatric Society, The University of North Carolina, the
North Carolina Board of Nursing, and the North Carolina Medical Board. As part of its study,
NC AHEC shall do at least the following:

- (1) Survey other states to identify the best innovative and effective approaches to
address preceptor shortages for medical students, nurse practitioner students,
physician assistant students, and prelicensure nursing students.
- (2) Research and report on the current approaches to identifying, engaging,
financing, and evaluating clinical training sites and how schools use tuition
funding to cover their students' costs related to clinical placements and
training. As part of this component of the study, NC AHEC shall consult with
the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board
of Community Colleges, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and
Universities.
- (3) Assess the capacity of North Carolina and nearby states for clinical training
sites, in consultation with the North Carolina Healthcare Association
(NCHA), the North Carolina Community Health Center Association, and
clinically integrated networks, including the following information for North
Carolina:



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- a. The number and percentage of independent and health system practices that are currently clinical training sites.
- b. The number and percentage of independent and health system practices that could become clinical training sites.
- c. The impacts on the efficiency of clinical practices when or if they become clinical training sites.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be allocated to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program to fund the study required by Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.