

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS35041-NBa-9A

Short Title: Regional Supervision/Reforms/CWBTC Recs. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Krawiec, Burgin, and Perry (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL SERVICES
3 REFORM AND MAKE APPROPRIATIONS TO TRANSITION TO REGIONAL
4 SUPERVISION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD
5 WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION COUNCIL.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** In accordance with the plan submitted by the Social Services
8 Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (SSWG) in its report on March 31,
9 2019, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services as required
10 by S.L. 2017-41 (Rylan's Law), the Department of Health and Human Services (Department)
11 shall establish seven regions for regional supervision of child welfare and social services and
12 begin providing oversight and support within those regions through State regional staff and the
13 central office team by March 1, 2021. To that end, the Department shall move forward, pursuant
14 to existing authority, with repurposing and redeploying (i) positions identified in the report to
15 support regionalization and (ii) all managerial staff needed to support regionalization in the
16 central office. The Department shall pursue procurement of physical offices within each of the
17 seven regions beginning in March 2023 and shall prioritize staffing to improve the child welfare
18 system. The Department shall move towards full implementation of a regional model, with
19 offices, by March 1, 2024.

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
21 Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, the sum of nine hundred fourteen
22 thousand seven hundred ninety dollars (\$914,790) recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year
23 to support 11 new staff positions to improve regional supervision and support of child welfare
24 services pursuant to the plan as described under subsection (a) of this section.

25 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2021.

26 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 108A-9 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 108A-9. Duties and responsibilities.**

28 The county board of social services shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

29 ...

30 (4a) To attend education and training sessions provided for new board members
31 during the first year they serve on the board.

32"

33 **SECTION 2.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social
34 Services, shall collaborate with key stakeholders, including the North Carolina Association of
35 County Boards of Social Services, Association of North Carolina County Social Services
36 Directors, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the University of North



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1 Carolina School of Government, to create formal education and training sessions for new county
2 boards of social services members in accordance with G.S. 108A-9(4a), as provided in subsection
3 (a) of this section. The education and training sessions shall include a segment on the potential
4 liabilities of the county board of social services. The education and training sessions shall be
5 available statewide by September 1, 2021.

6 **SECTION 2.(c)** Section 2(b) of this act is effective when it becomes law. Section
7 2(a) of this act becomes effective April 1, 2022, and by April 1, 2024, all current county board
8 of social services members must have participated in the education and training sessions provided
9 in G.S. 108A-9(4a).

10 **SECTION 3.** Except where otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
11 law.