

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1997**

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**HOUSE BILL 1460\***

Short Title: CVD Data Act.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Justus; Sexton and Watson.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 25, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
2 HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARDIOVASCULAR  
3 HEALTH DATA UNIT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HEART DISEASE AND  
4 STROKE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.  
5

6 Whereas, heart disease is the leading cause of death in North Carolina, and  
7 stroke is the third leading cause of death in North Carolina; and

8 Whereas, in North Carolina, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of  
9 hospital expenditures, resulting in more than \$2,000,000,000 in hospital charges during  
10 1997; and

11 Whereas, the annual costs of cardiovascular disease to the health care system  
12 in the United States in 1996 were estimated to have been \$151 billion, a 9% increase  
13 from the previous year; and

14 Whereas, several organizations, both public and private, are currently  
15 collecting health outcome data on cardiovascular disease (CVD); however, there is no  
16 ongoing central coordination and assessment of these data for the State of North  
17 Carolina; and

18 Whereas, available high quality CVD health outcome data are essential in  
19 order to:

- 20 (1) Target CVD interventions, which will achieve efficient use of limited  
21 resources;
- 22 (2) Motivate CVD intervention participants, which will achieve effective  
23 utilization of limited resources; and

1 (3) Evaluate CVD activities, which will then achieve accountable  
2 utilization of limited resources; and

3 Whereas, absence of such coordination has led to duplication of resources for  
4 CVD data assessment, missed opportunities for CVD prevention activities, and  
5 incomplete knowledge of the incidence of these diseases that are affecting North  
6 Carolina's vulnerable populations; and

7 Whereas, high quality CVD health outcome data are essential tools in the  
8 prevention and treatment of CVD and to the effective, efficient utilization of the State's  
9 health promotion/disease prevention resources; and

10 Whereas, the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force  
11 must have comprehensive, timely, and specific data in order to design a comprehensive  
12 statewide plan to prevent heart disease and stroke and to assure the effective  
13 implementation of the plan; Now, therefore,  
14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
16 Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred seventy thousand six hundred  
17 twenty-six dollars (\$170,626) for the 1998-99 fiscal year to fund the Cardiovascular  
18 Disease Health Outcome Data Unit established under this act.

19 Section 2. (a) The purposes of this act are to:

- 20 (1) Provide for the coordination and assessment of all existing  
21 cardiovascular databases within the State;  
22 (2) Build a CVD surveillance system according to national guidelines;  
23 (3) Establish a mechanism for the evaluation of public and private CVD  
24 health promotion/disease prevention activities;  
25 (4) Integrate these existing activities with the CVD intervention efforts of  
26 the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force;  
27 and  
28 (5) Provide the State's citizens with an improved quality of life and society  
29 with a reduction of health care costs by developing a comprehensive  
30 tool for monitoring cardiovascular conditions that affect the health and  
31 physical well-being of hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians.

32 (b) There is established the Cardiovascular Health Data Unit in the  
33 Department of Health and Human Resources. The Department shall, through this Unit,  
34 do the following:

- 35 (1) Identify existing CVD databases;  
36 (2) Develop a strategic plan for effective utilization of existing CVD  
37 databases;  
38 (3) Negotiate collaborative efforts with managers of existing CVD  
39 databases;  
40 (4) Analyze existing data from CVD databases; and  
41 (5) Provide timely, sensitive and specific data to the North Carolina Heart  
42 Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force.

1           In creating the Cardiovascular Health Data Unit established under this  
2 section, the Department shall ensure that sufficient staff are available and trained to  
3 effectively carry out the responsibilities of the Unit.

4           Section 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.