

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H

1

HOUSE BILL 788

Short Title: Achieve Better Mental Health Recovery Results. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Autry, Lambeth, Sasser, and Brown (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 4, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ACHIEVE BETTER MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY RESULTS BY  
3 SUPPORTING PEER-RUN RECOVERY WELLNESS CENTERS, BY CREATING A  
4 NORTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY AGENDA,  
5 AND BY REQUIRING A MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY POLICY CHIEF WITHIN  
6 THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND  
7 SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
8 SERVICES.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
11 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and  
12 Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000)  
13 in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated to the Promise Resource  
14 Network for the establishment of four peer-run wellness centers to address mental health crisis  
15 prevention and post-crisis response. These four peer-run wellness centers shall be located in two  
16 different urban locations and two different rural locations in this State.

17 **SECTION 1.(b)** No later than September 1, 2022, DMH/DD/SAS shall report on the  
18 status of the establishment of the four peer-run wellness centers under subsection (a) of this  
19 section to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services. The report shall  
20 include an estimated time line for the centers to be fully operational and an estimate of the number  
21 of individuals each center will have the capacity to serve.

22 **SECTION 2.(a)** The title of Part 4 of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General  
23 Statutes reads as rewritten:

24 "Part 4. Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
25 Services."

26 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by  
27 adding a new Part to read:

28 "Part 37. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
29 Services.

30 "**§ 143B-216.90. Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief.**

31 (a) The position of Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief is established in the Division  
32 of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services of the Department  
33 of Health and Human Services.

34 (b) The role of Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief shall only be held by an individual  
35 certified as a peer support specialist.



\* H 7 8 8 - V - 1 \*

1       (c)     The Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief shall ensure that mental health recovery  
2 values and outcomes are drivers of State policy and work to engage knowledgeable individuals  
3 who have experienced mental health recovery and external experts to inform the Division of  
4 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

5 **"§ 143B-216.91. NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda.**

6       (a)     No later than January 31 of each odd calendar year, the Division of Mental Health,  
7 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Health and  
8 Human Services shall publish a biennial NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda on  
9 its website.

10       (b)     The NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda shall set Department of  
11 Health and Human Services objectives for mental health recovery outcomes. The NC Mental  
12 Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda shall provide both short-term and long-term objectives  
13 and track work done by the Department of Health and Human Services to meet the objectives  
14 from the prior Agenda.

15       (c)     The Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief established under this Part shall ensure that  
16 individuals with personal experiences of mental health recovery inform the development of each  
17 NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda."

18               **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 143B-150.1 is recodified as G.S. 143B-216.92, under Part 37  
19 of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, as enacted by subsection (b) of this section.

20               **SECTION 2.(d)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
21 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and  
22 Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)  
23 in recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars  
24 (\$100,000) in recurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to be used to fund the salary and  
25 benefits for the Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief position within DMH/DD/SAS, required  
26 under G.S. 143B-216.90, as enacted by subsection (b) of this section.

27               **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.