

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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HOUSE BILL 579

Short Title: Local Communicable Disease Programs/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives White, Lambeth, Dobson, and Potts (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

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

April 4, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO EXPAND LOCAL
4 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, DETECTION, CONTROL, AND
5 PREVENTION INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES.

6 Whereas, in the last ten years, cases of communicable diseases have increased over
7 two hundred percent (200%); and

8 Whereas, State funding to support communicable disease efforts has remained
9 stagnant, thereby creating pressures on local governments to meet these demands; and

10 Whereas, in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, general communicable disease control cost
11 twenty million six hundred thousand dollars (\$20,600,000), and State funding provided less than
12 five percent (5%) of that cost, or approximately eight hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars
13 (\$867,000), leaving the remaining nineteen million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$19,800,000)
14 to be borne by local governments; and

15 Whereas, State law requires local health departments to implement control measures
16 to prevent the spread of all reportable communicable diseases or communicable conditions and
17 any other communicable disease or communicable condition that represents a significant threat
18 to the public health; and

19 Whereas, local health departments provide, at no cost to the patient, the examination
20 and treatment for tuberculosis disease and infection and for sexually transmitted diseases
21 designated by the Commission for Public Health; and

22 Whereas, local health departments must have the infrastructure and capacity to
23 perform communicable disease control and surveillance activities in order to prevent the spread
24 of disease and protect the public health; Now, therefore,
25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the public health by
27 providing additional State funds to address increased demands associated with communicable
28 and emerging infectious diseases. To that end, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the
29 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of eight million
30 dollars (\$8,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of eight million
31 dollars (\$8,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, to be allocated to local
32 health departments to expand local infrastructure for activities associated with the surveillance,
33 detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases. In allocating these funds to local
34 health departments under this section, for each year of the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, the



1 Division of Public Health shall divide four million dollars (\$4,000,000) equally among the local
2 health departments. The Division of Public Health shall allocate the remaining four million
3 dollars (\$4,000,000) to local health departments based upon the percentage of the State
4 population served by each of the local health departments. Local health departments shall use all
5 funds allocated under this section to supplement and not supplant existing funds for the
6 surveillance, detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases.

7 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.