

Whereas, responding to these high rates with inspections is placing these small employers in jeopardy of fines and penalties for problems they may not recognize or have little experience to fix; and

Whereas, providing technical assistance to these small employers with high rates may more efficiently effect changes to reduce injuries and illnesses in their workplaces than an inspection; and

Whereas, it is the intention of the General Assembly to provide technical assistance to small employers with high rate modifiers to reduce injuries and illnesses; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. Article 22 of Chapter 95 of the General Statutes is amended by
3 adding a new section to read:

4 "**§ 95-255.1. Technical assistance.**

5 Employers notified pursuant to G.S. 95-255(a) shall be offered technical
6 assistance from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health to reduce injuries and
7 illnesses in their workplaces."

8 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Labor the sum of one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) for the 1997-
10 98 fiscal year to provide technical assistance as required by Section 1 of this act.

11 Section 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.