

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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HOUSE BILL 973*

Short Title: Funds for Interpreters in Local Health Depts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; Barefoot, Easterling, Gibson, Hackney, Jeffus, Luebke, McLawhorn, Miller, Underhill, Wainwright, Weiss, Wright, and Yongue.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 4, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR INTERPRETER SERVICES IN LOCAL
3 HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN COUNTIES WITH A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER
4 OF SPANISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of three
8 million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of three million
9 two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. These funds
10 shall be used to provide professional interpreters based in local health departments in
11 counties with medium, high, or very high-population density of Spanish-speaking
12 residents. The funds shall be allocated to local health departments based on a ratio
13 recommended by the State Health Director's Committee on Linguistic Services.

14 **SECTION 1.(b)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Health and
15 Human Services in subsection (a) of this section, the sum of up to five hundred
16 thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of up to seven
17 hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2002-2003 fiscal year may be used by the
18 Department to plan, implement, and maintain a program to provide incentives for local
19 health departments to recruit, select, and hire bilingual staff.

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.