

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 715

Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield, Earle, Meyer, and Morey (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 11, 2017

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PRIORITIZE
2 EFFORTS TO EXAMINE AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE EVIDENCE-BASED
3 METHODS FOR ENSURING THAT ADULTS WITH ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE
4 USE DISORDERS RECEIVE NEEDED TREATMENT AND SERVICES.

5 Whereas, according to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted
6 by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, approximately
7 11.3 million adults age 26 or older had an alcohol use disorder in the past year, which
8 represents 5.4% of the adults in this age group, and approximately 4.4 million adults aged 26 or
9 older had an illicit substance use disorder in the past year, which represents 2.1% of adults aged
10 26 or older; and

11 Whereas, while every state faces its own unique and serious alcohol and substance
12 use disorder issues, North Carolina faces death rates much higher than the national average, as
13 evidenced by the facts that excessive consumption of alcohol is the third leading preventable
14 cause of death in North Carolina and the rate of fatal substance use overdoses in some North
15 Carolina counties are among the worst in the country; and

16 Whereas, one of the most tragic aspects of these statistics is that deaths attributed to
17 alcohol and substance use disorders are entirely preventable with proper treatment and services;
18 and

19 Whereas, the number of individuals who undergo treatment for alcohol and
20 substance use disorders is not nearly as high as the number of individuals who have these
21 disorders because they fail to seek, or decline, treatment and services due to the anticipated
22 negative impact upon their personal freedom, their relationships with family members and
23 friends, their careers, and their image in the community; and

24 Whereas, it is difficult to persuade individuals who are in serious and immediate
25 need of treatment and services, but do not meet the legal standard for involuntary commitment
26 to those services, to seek help; and

27 Whereas, guardianship laws do not ensure that individuals with alcohol and
28 substance use disorders receive and accept needed treatment and services; Now, therefore,
29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

30 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to prioritize efforts to
31 examine and implement innovative evidence-based methods, other than guardianship and
32 involuntary commitment, for ensuring that adults in need of assistance with recovery from
33 alcohol and substance use disorders receive compassionate and effective treatment and care.

34 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

