

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 786\*

Short Title: Healthy Mother & Child/Shackling Prohibition. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Smith, Foushee, and Van Duyn (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 31, 2018

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES FOR FEMALE PRISONERS AND  
3 DETAINEES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
6 Article to read:

7 "Article 84C.

8 "Treatment of Pregnant Prisoners and Detainees.

9 **"§ 15A-1369.10. Definitions.**

10 As used in this Article:

- 11 (1) "Correctional institution" means any unit of the State prison system, local  
12 confinement facility, juvenile detention facility, or other entity under the  
13 authority of any State or local law enforcement agency that has the power to  
14 detain or restrain a person under the laws of this State.  
15 (2) "Corrections official" means the official that is responsible for oversight of a  
16 correctional institution or that official's designee.  
17 (3) "Detainee" includes any person detained under the immigration laws of the  
18 United States at any correctional facility.  
19 (4) "Extraordinary circumstance" means there has been an individualized  
20 determination that restraints are necessary to prevent the woman from injuring  
21 herself or others and cannot reasonably be restrained by other means,  
22 including the use of additional personnel.  
23 (5) "Labor" means the period of time before a birth during which contractions are  
24 of sufficient frequency, intensity, and duration to bring about effacement and  
25 progressive dilation of the cervix.  
26 (6) "Postpartum period" means the eight weeks following the birth of the baby.  
27 (7) "Postpartum recovery" means, as determined by a woman's physician or  
28 obstetrical provider, the period immediately following delivery, including the  
29 entire period a woman is in the hospital or infirmary after giving birth.  
30 (8) "Prisoner" means any person incarcerated or detained in any facility who is  
31 accused of, convicted of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for  
32 violations of criminal law or the terms and conditions of parole, probation,  
33 pretrial release, or diversionary program.  
34 (9) "Restraints" means any physical restraint or mechanical device used to control  
35 the movement of a prisoner or detainee's body or limbs.

36 **"§ 15A-1369.11. Restraint of prisoners and detainees.**



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1       (a) A correctional institution shall not use restraints on a prisoner or detainee known to  
2 be pregnant, including during labor, transport to a medical facility, delivery, postpartum  
3 recovery, and the postpartum period, unless the corrections official makes an individualized  
4 determination that the prisoner or detainee presents an extraordinary circumstance, except that:

5           (1) If the physician, obstetrical provider, nurse, or other health professional  
6 treating the prisoner or detainee requests that restraints not be used, the  
7 corrections officer accompanying the prisoner or detainee shall immediately  
8 remove all restraints.

9           (2) Under no circumstances shall leg or waist restraints be used on any prisoner  
10 or detainee who is in labor or delivery.

11       (b) If restraints are used on a prisoner or detainee pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
12 section:

13           (1) The type of restraint applied and the application of the restraint shall be  
14 accomplished in the least restrictive manner necessary.

15           (2) The corrections official shall make written findings within 10 days as to the  
16 extraordinary circumstance that dictated the use of the restraints. These  
17 findings shall be kept on file by the correctional institution for at least five  
18 years and be made available for public inspection, except that no individually  
19 identifying information of any prisoner or detainee shall be made public under  
20 this Article without the prisoner or detainee's prior written consent."

21       **SECTION 2.** All correctional facilities in the State shall develop the rules mandated  
22 under this act within 30 days of the date this act becomes law and shall inform prisoners and  
23 detainees within their custody of those rules within 60 days of the date this act becomes law.

24       **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
25 Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, the sum of two hundred fifty  
26 thousand dollars (\$250,000) for fiscal year 2018-2019 in recurring funds to be allocated to policy  
27 implementation, education, and training of the procedures outlined in Section 1 of this act.

28       **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018.