

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H

1

HOUSE BILL 358

Short Title: Community Paramedicine Program/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dobson, Grange, Blackwell, and B. Turner (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,
Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 14, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM WITHIN THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF HEALTH
4 SERVICE REGULATION, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND
5 APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT FOUR COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE
6 PROGRAM SITES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
9 Article to read:

10 "Article 7B.

11 "Community Paramedicine Program.

12 "**§ 131E-163. Title.**

13 This Article shall be known as the "Community Paramedicine Program."

14 "**§ 131E-163.1. Establishment and purpose.**

15 There is established within the Department's Division of Health Service Regulation, Office
16 of Emergency Medical Services, a community paramedicine program. The Department shall
17 implement the program in at least four different sites throughout the State, giving preference to
18 counties with existing community paramedic programs. The purpose of the program is to expand
19 the role of paramedics in community-based care initiatives that result in providing care that
20 accomplishes one or more of the following goals:

- 21 (1) Improves individual and community health.
22 (2) Reduces unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits.
23 (3) Improves patient satisfaction.
24 (4) Reduces healthcare costs.

25 "**§ 131E-163.2. Program participation; rules.**

26 The Department, in consultation with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical
27 Services, shall adopt rules specifying program objectives, standards, and participation
28 requirements, which shall include at least all of the following:

- 29 (1) Educational and other requirements to qualify as a community paramedic
30 eligible to participate in the program.
31 (2) Selection criteria for program sites that give preference to counties with
32 existing community paramedic programs.
33 (3) A payment or reimbursement system for services provided by community
34 paramedics participating in the program.



* H 3 5 8 - V - 1 *

1 (4) Required outcomes and reporting requirements for community paramedics
2 participating in the program.

3 **"§ 131E-163.3. Not an entitlement.**

4 The Department is not required to provide funding to community paramedicine program
5 participants beyond the amount appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose. The
6 community paramedicine program established under this Article is not an entitlement and
7 nothing in this Article shall create any property right."

8 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, Office of Emergency
10 Medical Services, the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) in recurring funds for
11 the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) in recurring
12 funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, for the community paramedicine program authorized under
13 Article 7B of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act. For each year of the
14 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
15 Service Regulation, Office of Emergency Medical Services, shall allocate these funds in the
16 amounts specified to support the following four community paramedicine program sites:

- 17 (1) Up to two hundred ten thousand dollars (\$210,000) to the McDowell County
18 Emergency Medical Services program site.
19 (2) Up to two hundred ten thousand dollars (\$210,000) to the New Hanover
20 Regional Emergency Medical Services program site.
21 (3) Up to two hundred ten thousand dollars (\$210,000) to the Wake Emergency
22 Medical Services program site.
23 (4) Up to seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to a program site selected by the
24 Department of Health and Human Services.

25 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.