



# HOUSE BILL 141: PED Study - DPS/Health Services/Funds for FTE.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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**Committee:** House Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to **Date:** March 6, 2019  
Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety. If  
favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If  
favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and  
Operations of the House

**Introduced by:** Reps. Horn, Farmer-Butterfield, Lucas, R. **Prepared by:** Shawn Middlebrooks  
Turner Staff Attorney

**Analysis of:** First Edition

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 141 would appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Health Services division recurring funds to create a Social Research Specialist III position.*

**BACKGROUND:** The 2015-2017 Work Plan of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee directed the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to examine the efficiency and economy of health services provided for North Carolina prison inmates. PED found that spending for inmates increased by 38% over the last decade and that factors attributable to increased spending included insufficient appropriations, noncompliance with statutory and contractual reimbursement processes, inadequate spending and monitoring of pharmaceutical medications, inadequate data collection and cost recovery practices, and failed use of the State's medical release program.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 141 would appropriate \$82,115.00, recurring funds, from the General Fund to DPS, Health Services division for a Social Research Specialist III position, who shall be responsible for (1) combining and analyzing inmate health data, (2) identifying factors that increase inmate healthcare cost, and (3) identifying ways for the Department to limit those factors.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would be effective July 1, 2019.

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
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