



HOUSE BILL 982: Faith In Mental Health Pilot Program.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 26, 2024
Introduced by:	Reps. Sossamon, Winslow, Ross, Fontenot	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 982 would establish a pilot program in Vance and Granville Counties allowing religious institutions to receive a "Faith in Mental Health" designation from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services (MH/DD/SUS). The bill would also appropriate \$10,000 to MH/DD/SUS to implement the program. A portion of those funds could be allocated to the religious institutions participating in the program.*

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 982 would direct MH/DD/SUS to establish a Faith in Mental Health pilot program in Vance and Granville Counties. Participation in the program would be open to any religious institution in either county. Members of the institution participating in the program must complete mental health and substance use training identified by MH/DD/SUS. Participating institutions would receive one of the following designations, depending on which criteria they meet.

- In order to be awarded the Basic Designation the institution must:
 - Conduct one training per year about local mental health and substance use service providers.
 - Have one member of the institution identified as capable of referring individuals to mental health and substance use service providers.
 - Feature a mental health or substance use topic each month.
 - Host at least one mental health or substance use support group.
- In order to be awarded the Intermediate Designation, the institution must:
 - Meet all the Basic Designation criteria.
 - Host a mental health or substance use forum on a quarterly basis.
 - Establish a mental health library.
 - Host a training offered by the QPR Institute at least once a year.
- In order to be awarded the Advanced Designation, the institution must:
 - Meet all the Basic and Intermediate Designation criteria.
 - Offer mental health first aid training at least once a year.
 - Have members or leadership of participate in a workshop pertaining to mental health or substance use at least once a year.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Upon receiving a designation, the institution must update its website to reflect the level of its participation in the program.

MH/DD/SUS must develop the application for the program, award all designations and report annually—no later than March 1 of each year—to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the steps taken to implement to program, the number and type of designations awarded, the number of individuals served by the program, and recommendations to expand the program to other counties.

\$10,000 would be appropriated to MH/DD/SUS to develop the program. A portion of those funds may be given to religious institutions to offset the costs of participation in the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective when it becomes law.