



2025-2026 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 8.26: North Carolina Collaboratory Report on Health Care Costs

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 8.26

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Section 8.26 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) directs the North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory) to study health care costs in the State. The study must do the following:

- Identify factors contributing to the rapid increase in health care costs.
- Propose options to mitigate those increases.
- Examine how other states are addressing rising health care costs, including an analysis of recent Medicaid changes made in House Enrolled Act 1004 in Indiana.

The Collaboratory must submit the following two reports to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Fiscal Research Division:

- An initial report with (i) actions taken so far in this State to address increasing health care costs, (ii) initial recommendations to mitigate increasing health care costs in the State, and (iii) any funds necessary to complete the study required by this section by April 1, 2027.
- A final report with (i) recommendations to mitigate health care costs and (ii) any corresponding legislative recommendations by April 1, 2028.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

Kara McCraw
Director



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