

(3) Evaluate CVD activities, which will then achieve accountable utilization of limited resources; and

Whereas, absence of such coordination has led to duplication of resources for CVD data assessment, missed opportunities for CVD prevention activities, and incomplete knowledge of the incidence of these diseases that are affecting North Carolina's vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, high quality CVD health outcome data are essential tools in the prevention and treatment of CVD and to the effective, efficient utilization of the State's health promotion/disease prevention resources; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force must have comprehensive, timely, and specific data in order to design a comprehensive statewide plan to prevent heart disease and stroke and to assure the effective implementation of the plan; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) The purposes of this act are to:

- (1) Provide for the coordination and assessment of all existing cardiovascular databases within the State;
- (2) Build a CVD surveillance system according to national guidelines;
- (3) Establish a mechanism for the evaluation of public and private CVD health promotion/disease prevention activities;
- (4) Integrate these existing activities with the CVD intervention efforts of the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force; and
- (5) Provide the State's citizens with an improved quality of life and society with a reduction of health care costs by developing a comprehensive tool for monitoring cardiovascular conditions that affect the health and physical well-being of hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians.

(b) There is established the Cardiovascular Disease Health Outcome Data Unit in the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. The Department shall, through this Unit, do the following:

- (1) Identify existing CVD databases;
- (2) Develop a strategic plan for effective utilization of existing CVD databases;
- (3) Negotiate collaborative efforts with managers of existing CVD databases;
- (4) Analyze existing data from CVD databases; and
- (5) Provide timely, sensitive and specific data to the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force.

Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of one hundred twenty-one thousand seven hundred seventy dollars (\$121,770) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thirty thousand eight hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$130,838) for the

- 1 1998-99 fiscal year to fund the Cardiovascular Disease Health Outcome Data Unit
- 2 established under this act.
- 3 Section 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.