

NC House Bill 76 (“Access to Healthcare Options”)

Medicaid expansion:

- Establishes a program called NC Health Works to expand Medicaid to cover people ages 18-64 earning up to 133% of the federal poverty level.
 - This will provide new coverage for an estimated 600k North Carolinians.
- Provide increased Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals through the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP) upon federal approval of a request developed and submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
 - Anticipated that North Carolina’s hospitals will see more than \$1.8 billion in additional federal dollars.
- Federal government funds 90% of the cost, NC 10%. (For traditional Medicaid, states pay 25-50% of the cost.)
 - The state would pay its 10% share of the program through hospital assessments, savings offset by the Medicaid expansion program, and gross premium taxes paid by the Medicaid managed care companies.

Changes to the CON law:

- Immediate:
 - Exempt from CON review all new behavioral health and chemical dependency beds
 - Change the review threshold for same-site renovations, expansion, or replacement of facilities from \$2 million to \$4 million.
 - Change the equipment replacement review threshold from \$2 million to \$3 million.
- In 2 years and only in counties with a population >125k:
 - Exempt from review ambulatory surgical facilities. These will be required to commit 4% of their total earned revenue to charity care.
- In 3 years and only in counties with a population >125k:
 - Exempt MRI scanners from review.

Where does the legislation stand?

- Passed by NC House and Senate (3/21/23) and signed by governor 3/27/23.
- However, activation of the bill is triggered by passage and signing of 2024 budget which is expected in June, but subject to the usual politics.

NC County Populations

Rank	County	Population
1	Wake County	1,112,883
2	Mecklenburg County	1,100,984
3	Guilford County	537,113
4	Forsyth County	380,583
5	Cumberland County	333,582
6	Durham County	320,146
7	Buncombe County	266,981
8	Union County	235,699
9	Gaston County	226,097
10	New Hanover County	225,175
11	Cabarrus County	221,200
12	Johnston County	211,320
13	Onslow County	201,597
14	Iredell County	183,965
15	Pitt County	170,600
16	Alamance County	169,185
17	Davidson County	168,002
18	Catawba County	159,852
19	Orange County	147,376
20	Rowan County	145,784
21	Randolph County	143,735
22	Brunswick County	133,789
23	Harnett County	133,074
24	Robeson County	118,836
25	Wayne County	117,692
26	Henderson County	115,613
27	Craven County	101,405
28	Cleveland County	98,898
29	Moore County	98,618
30	Nash County	94,628