



2002 Legislative Summary

- Funding:
 - State funding through the Council for Women was not cut and was maintained at \$2,682,500 for domestic violence programs.
 - The budget also includes \$900,000 in TANF funding for domestic violence services to Work First recipients. Each county should receive a base allocation of \$5,000 with the possibility of additional funds based on the county's proportion of the Work First caseload and proportion of individuals receiving domestic violence services from programs funded by the Council for Women.

- VAWA Compliance (Senate Bill 1057):

The substance of this bill passed as part of the budget bill. This bill will bring NC into compliance with the VAWA requirements not to charge victims any fees associated with protective orders (effective date 10/1/02) and not to charge sexual assault victims for forensic medical exams (effective date 10/15/02).

- Address Confidentiality Program (House Bill 1402):

This bill passed and establishes an address confidentiality program in the Attorney General's office for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who relocate and need to keep their address confidential. If an applicant qualifies, a substitute address is used for public records. The effective date is January 1, 2003. The Attorney General's office is in the process of setting up the program and will be informing us soon regarding the application process.

- Rulemaking Authority for Abuser Treatment Programs (House Bill 1534): This bill passed and grants authority to the Domestic Violence Commission to adopt rules for standards for court referred abuser treatment programs.

To obtain the text of bills, please go to www.ncleg.net.