



# NCALHD

North Carolina Association  
of Local Health Directors

## NCALHD

### **Position Regarding: *Registered Environmental Health Technician (REHT) Proposal***

The North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD) recognizes the current need for qualified and well-trained environmental health professionals to serve the public in local health departments. These highly trained specialists work to keep the public safe by inspecting facilities, consulting, and enforcing local and state health laws. The NCALHD agrees environmental health specialists protect our residents and visitors by providing thorough and science-based decisions regarding food & lodging establishments, institutional facilities such as childcare centers and hospitals, onsite wastewater systems, private drinking wells, groundwater contamination, public swimming pools, tattoo establishments, and vector control programs. These positions are also integral components of communicable disease investigations and childhood lead poisoning prevention. These functions ensure health and safety for those who live, learn, work, and visit in North Carolina.

A new two-year career pathway for registered environmental health technicians in the North Carolina Community College System has been proposed. This new position would allow for REHTs to perform the duties of a registered environmental health specialist.

A high level of accuracy in this work is imperative due to the public health, environmental, and local consequences involved. The person in this position must have a comprehensive understanding of all rules, laws, regulations, and accepted practices pertaining to each program. They must be able to study complex materials and issues and make recommendations or decisions which may have a profound impact on the citizens.

Due to this, the NCALHD believes that a four-year college degree from an accredited institution continues to be the professional standard required for this role to ensure that proper training, education, and public confidence remains high for these certified workers.

The NCALHD has reviewed the proposal, and its position is to not support this proposal in its current form and form a workgroup to consider ways to alleviate recruitment, retention, and workforce problems without compromising the professional standards of environmental health specialists.