

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

H

2

HOUSE BILL 1086
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/7/91

Short Title: Piedmont Triad Institute/Program.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 24, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PIEDMONT TRIAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO
2 OPERATE THE PIEDMONT TRIAD GRADUATE ENGINEERING PROGRAM,
3 BASED AT WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY AND SERVING THE ENTIRE
4 PIEDMONT TRIAD.
5

6 Whereas, North Carolina is the tenth largest state in population and must
7 maintain and enhance its position as a significant center for high technology research,
8 development, and manufacturing; and

9 Whereas, in order to accomplish this task, the State needs to combine and
10 work with two of its most visible and important components – its medical excellence
11 and its base in information systems, the medical component being obvious by the
12 excellent reputation of its universities and hospitals, and the information systems base
13 being evidenced by the unrivaled "CONCERT" network and by its universities, in
14 particular, the Center for Communications and Signal Processing at North Carolina
15 State University at Raleigh, and the Communications, Signal Processing Expert
16 Systems, and the Application Specific Integrated Circuit – Very Large Scale Integration
17 (ASIC VLSI) Design Laboratory at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
18 University; and

19 Whereas, the State can, by combining these and other resources, produce
20 another island of excellence in the Piedmont Triad by forming the Piedmont Triad
21 Research Institute and the Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program, affiliated
22 with the premier universities of the Piedmont Triad, Wake Forest University, Winston-
23 Salem State University, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University,

1 as well as with North Carolina State University at Raleigh, the State's major engineering
2 school; and

3 Whereas, with this strategic approach, a cooperative climate will develop
4 whereby research and education in medicine, engineering, computer science,
5 mathematics, and physical and chemical sciences will be heightened and whereby this
6 environment will attract industries involved in these areas to the Triad as a conduit for
7 research and technology transfer; Now, therefore,

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 Section 1. Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
10 Article to read:

11 "**ARTICLE 31.**

12 "Piedmont Triad Research Institute and Graduate Engineering Program.

13 "§ 116-250. Piedmont Triad Regional Institute; establishment; board of directors;
14 purpose.

15 (a) There is established the Piedmont Triad Research Institute as a nonprofit
16 corporation registered and regulated pursuant to Chapter 55A of the General Statutes.

17 (b) The Articles of Incorporation of the Institute shall constitute the board of
18 directors of the Institute of individuals representing industrial and business interests in
19 the Triad area, and of representatives of the following universities:

20 (1) North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University;

21 (2) North Carolina State University at Raleigh;

22 (3) Wake Forest University; and

23 (4) Winston-Salem State University.

24 (c) The Institute is established to further education and research in engineering,
25 particularly as engineering may be applied to medicine.

26 "§ 116-251. Piedmont Triad Regional Institute's Director; funding administration
27 duties.

28 The Director of the Piedmont Triad Research Institute shall report directly to the
29 board of directors of the Institute. The Director shall administer the Institute's funds
30 from three primary sources for the general operation of the Institute and the fourth for
31 the operation of the Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program established by G.S.
32 116-252. These sources of funds are as follows:

33 (1) Funds from external research funding agencies such as the National
34 Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health;

35 (2) Funds from industries in support of specific research projects;

36 (3) Funds from block grants from foundations and chambers of commerce;
37 and

38 (4) Funds appropriated to the Institute from the State in support of the
39 Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program established by G.S.
40 116-252.

41 "§ 116-252. Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program; establishment;
42 purpose.

43 There is established the Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program, to be
44 housed in Winston-Salem in facilities provided by the Bowman Gray School of

1 Medicine at Wake Forest University. The program shall support faculty and graduate
2 students involved in engineering at the campuses of The University of North Carolina in
3 order to allow their participation in engineering teaching and research in the Program,
4 which shall provide much-needed university-level engineering education to the
5 Piedmont Triad area.

6 The Program shall begin to be phased in effective for the academic year 1991-92.

7 **"§ 116-253. Piedmont Triad Graduate Engineering Program; Board of Governors**
8 **of The University of North Carolina; adoption of rules.**

9 The Board of Governors, pursuant to its authority under G.S. 116-11, shall adopt
10 rules, after consultation with the board of directors of the Piedmont Triad Research
11 Institute, to implement this Article as it affects the ongoing roles of The University of
12 North Carolina and its designated constituent institutions in the Piedmont Triad
13 Graduate Engineering Program and in the education and research projects of the
14 Institute."

15 Sec. 2. Nothing in this act obligates this General Assembly or future General
16 Assembly to appropriate any funds to implement it or obligates the Board of Governors
17 of The University of North Carolina to allocate any funds to implement it.

18 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.