

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 1722*

Short Title: UNC Nursing & Health Care Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Purcell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 23, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
2 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO EXPAND NURSING AND HEALTH
3 CARE.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
7 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of forty-three thousand dollars
8 (\$43,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund temporary space for the Elizabeth City
9 State University Pharmacy Program.

10 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
11 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of two million five hundred
12 thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund indigent care
13 reimbursement for East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine. This funding
14 will partially compensate the School for the cost of providing significant levels of
15 service to uninsured patients.

16 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
17 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of five million three hundred
18 thirty-one thousand five hundred six dollars (\$5,331,506) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year
19 to be allocated as follows:

- 20 (1) \$3,731,506 to fund Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
21 Expansion.
22 (2) \$1,000,000 to fund the establishment of a new Area Health Education
23 Center (AHEC) in Elizabeth City.
24 (3) \$600,000 to fund an expansion of Area Health Education Centers
25 (AHEC) to improve and expand nursing clinical education.

26 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
27 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of two million five hundred
28 thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund translational
29 medical research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

1 **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
2 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three hundred fifty thousand
3 dollars (\$350,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund the Center for Acquisition of
4 Spoken Language Through Listening Enrichment (CASTLE) within the Department of
5 Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel
6 Hill to expand this program.

7 **SECTION 6.(a)** G.S. 90-171.61 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 90-171.61. Nursing Scholars Program established; administration.**

9 (a) There is established the Nursing Scholars Program. The North Carolina
10 Nursing Scholars Commission shall determine selection criteria, methods of selection,
11 and shall select recipients of scholarship loans made under the Nursing Scholars
12 Program.

13 (b) The Nursing Scholars Program shall be used to provide the following:

14 (1) ~~A four year scholarship loan~~Scholarship loans in the amount~~amounts~~
15 ~~of up to of five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~six thousand five hundred
16 ~~dollars (\$6,500) per year, for each scholarship of no more than four~~
17 ~~years per recipient, to North Carolina high school seniors or other~~
18 ~~persons~~residents interested in preparing to become a registered nurse
19 ~~nurses through a associate or baccalaureate degree program.~~programs
20 ~~or through diploma programs.~~

21 (2) ~~A two year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars~~
22 ~~(\$3,000) per year, per recipient, to persons interested in preparing to be~~
23 ~~a registered nurse through an associate degree nursing program or a~~
24 ~~diploma nursing program.~~

25 (3) ~~A two year scholarship loan in the amount of three thousand dollars~~
26 ~~(\$3,000) per year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate nursing~~
27 ~~study for college juniors or community college graduates interested in~~
28 ~~preparing to be a registered nurse.~~

29 (4) ~~A two year scholarship loan of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per~~
30 ~~year, per recipient, for two years of baccalaureate study in nursing for~~
31 ~~registered nurses who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing.~~

32 (5) ~~A two year scholarship loan~~Scholarship loans of six thousand five
33 ~~hundred~~ dollars (\$6,000)~~(\$6,500)~~ per year, per recipient, for two years
34 of study leading to a master of science in nursing degree for ~~people~~
35 residents already holding a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

36 In ~~addition to the~~awarding scholarship loans awarded pursuant to subdivisions (1)
37 ~~through and~~ (5) of this subsection, the Commission may award pro rata scholarship
38 loans to recipients enrolled at least half-time in study to become a registered nurse or to
39 attain a master of science in nursing degree.~~in study leading to a master of science in~~
40 ~~nursing degree who already hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing and to recipients~~
41 ~~enrolled at least half-time in study leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing who~~
42 ~~already are licensed as registered nurses.~~ In awarding all scholarship loans, the
43 Commission shall give priority to full-time students over part-time students. The State
44 Education Assistance Authority shall adopt specific rules to regulate scholarship loans

1 to part-time master of science in nursing students and part-time baccalaureate degree
2 students.

3 Within current funds available or with any additional funds provided by the General
4 Assembly for this purpose, the Commission may set aside slots for scholarship loans
5 prescribed by ~~subdivisions (1) and (2)~~ subdivision (1) of this subsection to enable
6 licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses. The State Education Assistance
7 Authority shall adopt specific rules to regulate these scholarship loans.

8 (b1) If a recipient is awarded a scholarship loan under this program and is
9 enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in a baccalaureate nursing program, but is unable
10 to pursue the course of study in nursing for a semester due to limited faculty resources
11 at the institution for that semester, then the recipient shall continue to receive the
12 scholarship loan for that semester and shall not be required to forfeit or repay the
13 scholarship loan for that semester provided that the recipient remains otherwise eligible
14 for the program. This waiver shall be valid for only one semester of study and may
15 extend a recipient's eligibility for funding under the program by no more than one
16 semester.

17 (c) The Commission shall adopt stringent standards, which may include
18 minimum grade point average, scholastic aptitude test scores, and other standards
19 deemed appropriate by the Commission, to ensure that only the best potential students
20 receive and retain loans under the Nursing Scholars Program. Standards adopted by the
21 Commission shall include provisions for ensuring that the qualifications of applicants
22 who are or would be nontraditional students are considered fairly in providing them
23 with opportunities to compete for the loans. Loans under the Nursing Scholars Program
24 shall be awarded only to applicants who meet the standards set by the Commission and
25 who agree to practice nursing in North Carolina upon completion of the nursing
26 education program supported by the loan.

27 (d) The Commission shall develop and administer the Nursing Scholars Program
28 in cooperation with nursing schools at institutions approved by the Commission and the
29 North Carolina Board of Nursing. The Nursing Scholars Program shall provide for
30 participants to be exposed to a range of extracurricular activities while in school, which
31 activities shall be aimed at instilling in students a strong motivation to remain in the
32 practice of nursing and to provide leadership for the nursing profession.

33 (e) The Commission may form regional review committees within North
34 Carolina to assist it in identifying the best high school seniors and other applicants for
35 the program. The Commission and the review committees shall make an effort to
36 identify and encourage minority students and students who may not otherwise consider
37 a career in nursing to apply for the Nursing Scholars Program.

38 (f) Upon the naming of recipients of loans from the Nursing Scholars Program,
39 the Commission shall inform the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) of its
40 decisions. The SEAA shall perform all of the administrative functions necessary to
41 implement this Article, which functions shall include: rule-making, dissemination of
42 information to the public, distribution and receipt of applications for scholarship loans,
43 and the functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of promissory
44 notes required under this Article."

1 **SECTION 6.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board
2 of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of two million seven hundred
3 fifty thousand dollars (\$2,750,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund an expansion
4 of the Nursing Scholars Program. This funding will increase awards for the Nursing
5 Scholars Program from five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to six thousand five hundred
6 dollars (\$6,500) per year, to begin to include masters degree students and to increase the
7 current number of awards.

8 **SECTION 7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
9 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million two hundred
10 thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund the Graduate Nurse
11 Scholarship Program. This program would fund up to two years of study for a masters
12 degree student and up to three years of study for a doctoral degree student.

13 **SECTION 8.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
14 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three million six hundred
15 fourteen thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$3,614,365) for the 2006-2007 fiscal
16 year to fund the clinical component of nursing and to hire more clinical faculty.

17 **SECTION 9.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
18 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of eight hundred fifty thousand
19 dollars (\$850,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to fund new Bachelor of Science in
20 Nursing programs at Fayetteville State University and the University of North Carolina
21 at Pembroke and a new Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at
22 Appalachian State University.

23 **SECTION 10.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006. Subsection (a) of
24 Section 6 of this act shall apply to all scholarship loans awarded or renewed on or after
25 that date.