

May 22, 2006

S 1722. UNC NURSING & HEALTH CARE FUNDS. Filed 5/22/06. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO EXPAND NURSING AND HEALTH CARE.* Appropriates \$43,000 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund temporary space for the Elizabeth City State University Pharmacy Program. Appropriates \$2.5 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to provide partial compensation to East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine for providing services to uninsured patients. Appropriates \$5,331,506 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to be allocated as follows: \$3,371,506 to fund Area Health Education Center (AHEC) expansion; \$1 million to fund the establishment of a new AHEC in Elizabeth City; and \$600,000 to fund an expansion of AHECs to improve and expand nursing clinical education. Appropriates \$2.5 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund translational medical research at UNC-Chapel Hill. Appropriates \$350,000 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund the expansion of the Center for Acquisition of Spoken Language Through Listening Enrichment (CASTLE) program within the Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Amends GS 90-171.61, the North Carolina Nursing Scholars Program, which provides scholarship loans to individuals interested in becoming registered nurses. The bill increases the amount of scholarship loans an individual may receive each year, eliminates distinctions in the amounts that are available to students in baccalaureate versus associate or diploma programs, and restricts eligibility for the program to North Carolina residents. Presently, the program provides scholarship loans of up to \$5,000 per year for up to four years for high school seniors or other persons wishing to enroll in baccalaureate nursing programs, up to \$3,000 per year for up to two years for persons wishing to enroll in associate degree or diploma nursing programs, up to \$3,000 per year for college juniors or community college graduates interested in pursuing two years of baccalaureate nursing study, and up to \$3,000 per year for up to two years of baccalaureate nursing study for registered nurses who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The bill replaces these categories and amounts with a single provision that authorizes scholarship loans of up to \$6,500 per year for up to four years to a North Carolina resident interested in pursuing the registered nurse credential through an associate, baccalaureate, or diploma program. The bill also increases the amount of scholarship loans available to individuals with baccalaureate degrees in nursing who wish to pursue a master of science in nursing, from \$6,000 to \$6,500 per year, for two years, and clarifies that these loans are available only to North Carolina residents. Appropriates \$2.75 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina to fund expansion of the Nursing Scholars program and pay for the increased amounts of the scholarship loans.

Appropriates \$1.2 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund the Graduate Nurse Scholarship Program. Appropriates \$3,614,365 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund the clinical component of nursing and hire more clinical faculty. Appropriates \$850,000 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to fund new Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs at Fayetteville State University and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, as well as a new Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Appalachian State University. Effective July 1, 2006. The changes to GS 90-171.61 apply to scholarship loans awarded or renewed on or after July 1, 2006.

Intro. by Purcell.

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