

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 684
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10395-LGa-131

Short Title: Creating Relationships for Youth w/IDD/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Fraley, Hunt, and Corbin (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO BEST BUDDIES NORTH CAROLINA.

3 Whereas, there are more than 41,000 students with intellectual and developmental
4 disabilities (IDD) enrolled in North Carolina's public schools, community colleges, and public
5 universities; and

6 Whereas, an overwhelming majority of young people ages 12-21, including many
7 with IDD, experience bullying, leading to loneliness and depression; and

8 Whereas, Best Buddies North Carolina (BBNC) is a highly successful, high-demand
9 program that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and
10 leadership development for people with IDD; and

11 Whereas, BBNC can focus on expanding in North Carolina with the support of State
12 funds and matched by funds raised by the organization; Now, therefore,
13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Best Buddies
15 International, North Carolina Chapter, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for
16 the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the
17 2020-2021 fiscal year in nonrecurring funds to support volunteer training, staff supervision of
18 school-based chapters, and focused areas for program expansion efforts in three regions: the
19 Piedmont (Union, Gaston, and Lincoln Counties), Coastal (Brunswick, Lee, Craven, and Pitt
20 Counties), and Mountain (Cherokee, Macon, and Watauga Counties).

21 **SECTION 2.** The funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act shall be allocated
22 quarterly provided BBNC raises funds to match this appropriation on the basis of one dollar
23 (\$1.00) of non-State funds for every two dollars (\$2.00) of State funds. BBNC shall periodically
24 inform the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health,
25 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, of the amount of matching funds it
26 has raised. The Department may allocate the funds appropriated in this act only to the extent that
27 the required matching funds have been raised.

28 **SECTION 3.** Within three months of receiving an allocation of State funds, BBNC
29 shall submit a detailed report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
30 Services on the following: (i) the progress made in raising the non-State matching funds, (ii) how
31 the State funds are being utilized, and (iii) how expansion into areas not currently served by the
32 BBNC will be prioritized.

33 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.

