

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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S.B. 904  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45575-MGa-202

Short Title: P'ships for Surg. Care in Underserved Areas. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Blue and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
3 SERVICES, OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
4 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY TO IMPROVE  
5 GENERAL SURGICAL CARE IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
8 Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health, the sum of eighteen million two hundred  
9 ninety-five thousand dollars (\$18,295,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year,  
10 to be allocated to Duke University for the establishment and operation of a six-year,  
11 public-private partnership to improve general surgical care in Robeson County, Scotland County,  
12 and other surrounding rural counties identified by the Office of Rural Health as a surgical  
13 workforce shortage area. Duke University shall use these funds to do at least all of the following  
14 in collaboration with the Office of Rural Health:

- 15 (1) Attract medical students to surgical residency programs affiliated with Duke  
16 University.
- 17 (2) Develop new surgical training paradigms.
- 18 (3) Grow the general surgery workforce in Robeson County, Scotland County,  
19 and other surrounding rural counties identified by the Office of Rural Health  
20 as experiencing a shortage of general surgeons, by developing incentives to  
21 attract and retain general surgeons committed to practicing in these rural  
22 counties.

23 Funds allocated under this subsection shall not revert at the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year  
24 but shall remain available for nonrecurring expenditures until expended.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** By January 15 and June 15 of each calendar year, the Department  
26 of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health, shall report to the Joint Legislative  
27 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the status and operation of the  
28 public-private partnership authorized by this act. The report shall include at least all of the  
29 following:

- 30 (1) A breakdown of all expenditures from the funds allocated for the  
31 public-private partnership authorized by this act.
- 32 (2) Any change in the number of medical students participating in surgical  
33 residency programs affiliated with Duke University.
- 34 (3) Any change in the number of surgeons practicing in Robeson County,  
35 Scotland County, and other surrounding rural counties identified by the Office  
36 of Rural Health as a surgical workforce shortage area.



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- 1           (4)    An analysis of how the public-private partnership authorized by this act has  
2                    impacted the surgical workforce in Robeson County, Scotland County, and  
3                    other surrounding rural counties identified by the Office of Rural Health as a  
4                    surgical workforce shortage area.

5           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2022.