

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 486
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30036-MGa-37

Short Title: Advocacy for Long-Term Care Residents/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Ball.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES, TO ENHANCE
4 PROTECTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES BY MOVING
5 THE STATE'S LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM TOWARD NATIONAL
6 STANDARDS.

7 Whereas, Ombudsmen serve and protect some of the most vulnerable and needy
8 citizens in our State—residents of nursing homes, adult care homes, and family care homes; and

9 Whereas, Ombudsmen advocate for residents' rights; work to improve the quality of
10 care provided in facilities; and assist residents, family members, and providers in resolving
11 potentially contentious issues without resorting to formal complaint processes, thereby saving
12 the State and residents time and resources; and

13 Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and
14 Adult Services, oversees the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Now, therefore,
15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
17 Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, the sum of nine hundred fifty
18 thousand dollars (\$950,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of nine
19 hundred eighty-two thousand dollars (\$982,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
20 to create 10 full-time equivalent ombudsman positions within the Office of the State Long-Term
21 Care Ombudsman in the Division of Aging and Adult Services in order to move North Carolina
22 toward national standards for long-term care ombudsman programs.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.

