

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 651
Apr 17, 2023
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10333-MGa-116

Short Title: South Piedmont Regional Autopsy Center/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Willis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS AND EQUIPMENT
3 ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTY-OPERATED
4 REGIONAL AUTOPSY CENTER IN UNION COUNTY SERVING THE SOUTH
5 PIEDMONT REGION 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, Division of Public Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
9 (OCME), the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal
10 year and the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal
11 year to be allocated to Union County for operational costs and equipment associated with the
12 establishment of a county-operated regional autopsy center serving the following areas:

- 13 (1) Anson County.
- 14 (2) Cabarrus County.
- 15 (3) Montgomery County.
- 16 (4) Richmond County.
- 17 (5) Stanly County.
- 18 (6) Union County.

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** Union County shall notify the Department of Health and Human
20 Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, and the
21 Fiscal Research Division when the regional autopsy center funded by this section becomes
22 operational. Upon receiving this notification, the OCME shall enter into a contract with Union
23 County pursuant to which (i) the regional autopsy center funded by this section agrees to provide
24 independent forensic pathology services in the counties specified by subsection (a) of this section
25 and (ii) the OCME agrees to reimburse Union County for each autopsy performed by the regional
26 autopsy center in an amount equivalent to the fee authorized by G.S. 130A-389.

27 **SECTION 1.(c)** By December 1, 2023, and December 1, 2024, Union County shall
28 submit a progress report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative
29 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division on the
30 status and operation of the regional autopsy center funded by this section.

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

