

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 1091*

Short Title: Family Med Center at ECU/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McLawhorn, Warren, Williams (Primary Sponsors);
Farmer-Butterfield and LaRoque.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 4, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE BRODY SCHOOL OF
4 MEDICINE AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TO CONSTRUCT A FAMILY
5 MEDICINE CENTER.

6 Whereas, the current Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center at the Brody
7 School of Medicine at East Carolina University was constructed in 1975 and since that
8 time has been the training home for more than 250 family doctors, most of whom
9 practice in North Carolina; and

10 Whereas, in any accredited residency training program for family medicine,
11 the "Center" is the centerpiece; and

12 Whereas, the "Center" is as important to the family physicians as
13 state-of-the-art operating rooms are to the training of surgeons; and

14 Whereas, the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center is outdated and
15 overcrowded, and therefore the Department of Family Medicine can no longer
16 effectively compete in the recruitment of residents, fellows, and faculty; and

17 Whereas, inadequate facilities represent a challenge to delivery of quality care
18 for our citizenry; and

19 Whereas, states with the highest number of "general practitioners" per 1,000
20 patients rank significantly higher, both in terms of quality and cost-effectiveness of
21 health care; and

22 Whereas, without a new Family Medicine Center at the Brody School of
23 Medicine, a population of people with some of the worst health indicators in the nation
24 is going to be even more threatened; and

25 Whereas, family physicians receive four years of medical school education
26 followed by a minimum of three years of specialty training; and

27 Whereas, students who are trained in a state-of-the-art facility, motivated by
28 the full scope and range of responsibilities the challenging discipline demands, and are

1 strongly mentored in such an environment are much more likely to become family
2 physicians and remain in North Carolina; and

3 Whereas, the North Carolina General Assembly founded a medical school at
4 East Carolina University, with a stated mission to train primary care (family care)
5 physicians; and

6 Whereas, over seventy-five percent of medical school graduates who
7 complete their residency training in family medicine at our affiliated major teaching
8 hospital, Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, under the direct supervision of
9 the medical school faculty, remain in North Carolina to practice medicine; and

10 Whereas, the vast majority provides critically needed care in rural and
11 underserved communities; Now, therefore,

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
14 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the Brody School of Medicine the
15 sum of forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to construct the
16 Family Medicine Center at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

17 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.