

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1157*

Short Title: State Veterans Home.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Raynor; Tally, Staton, Smith, Cochrane, Forrester, Bryan, and Speed.

Referred to: Veteran and Military Affairs, Law Enforcement, and Senior Citizens.

June 3, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO
2 CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A STATE VETERANS HOME
3 AND TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO BE THE
4 CONTACT POINT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE VETERANS
5 HOME.
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7 Whereas, there are more than 679,100 veterans in North Carolina, of whom
8 more than 182,000 are 65 years of age or older, with the percentage of older veterans
9 projected to grow significantly in the future; and

10 Whereas, the General Assembly authorized an independent study, the
11 Veterans Home Study Commission, to determine the feasibility of constructing a State
12 Veterans Home which, after due consideration, has determined that the construction of
13 the home is not only feasible but also necessary because of the aging veteran
14 population; and

15 Whereas, a consultant's report commissioned by the Veterans Home Study
16 Commission has estimated that the construction cost of a 240 domiciliary and skilled
17 nursing care bed State Veterans Home on a site adjacent to the Fayetteville VA Medical
18 Center on land donated by the Veterans Administration, would be approximately
19 \$17,000,000, of which 65% would be provided by the federal government; and

20 Whereas, the costs of maintaining and operating the State Veterans Home
21 would be approximately \$7,000,000 per year, most of which would be recouped from
22 various sources available to the aged and infirmed residents of the home, such as
23 Medicaid, Medicare, and other veterans health benefits; and

1 Whereas, North Carolina is one of only eight states that does not provide a
2 State Veterans Home for the aged veterans of the State; Now, therefore,
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 Section 1. The State of North Carolina shall construct, maintain, and operate
5 a State Veterans Home for the aged and infirmed veterans of this State. The Division of
6 Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, shall be the contact agency for seeking
7 and obtaining funding from the Veterans Administration for the construction of the
8 Veterans Home as outlined in the Veterans Home Feasibility Study commissioned by
9 the Veterans Home Study Commission.

10 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of
11 Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, the sum of seven million five hundred
12 thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) for the 1992-93 fiscal year to provide the State
13 participation in the cost of the construction of a State Veterans Home as outlined in the
14 report of the Veterans Home Study Commission, including preliminary surveys and
15 feasibility studies, and to provide additional staffing in the Division of Veterans Affairs
16 related to the construction and management of the State Veterans Home.

17 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992.