

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 607**

Short Title: Family Med Center at ECU/Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Jenkins and Kerr.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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March 16, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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14 Whereas, the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center is outdated and  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.