GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2003

H HOUSE BILL 1742

Short Title:	Funds for WakeMed Biomedical Alliance.	(Public)
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Sponsors: Representatives Miner; B. Allen, Eddins, Munford, Ross, and Weiss.

Referred to: Appropriations.

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and

May 27, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO WAKEMED HEALTH & HOSPITALS,
INC., FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAKEMED
BIOMEDICAL ALLIANCE.

Whereas, WakeMed Health & Hospitals, Inc., is a multihospital, private, nonprofit teaching and tertiary health care system based in Wake County; and

Whereas, WakeMed's emergency departments handled more than 147,000 visits in 2003; and

Whereas, WakeMed's heart program leads the State in number of procedures;

Whereas, WakeMed is virtually the sole provider in Wake County of hospital services for the medically underserved population; and

Whereas, WakeMed's annual contribution in free care is over \$68,000,000 in addition to bad debt and what is written off for contractual adjustments for Medicare and Medicaid; and

Whereas, with over 6,000 employees, WakeMed is the third largest private employer in the Research Triangle Area; and

Whereas, WakeMed's medical staff includes nearly 900 physicians, representing all medical and surgical specialties, and is the largest off-site teaching program for UNC-Chapel Hill; and

Whereas, WakeMed is positioned to expand services and stimulate economic growth in health care delivery, information technology, and biomedical research and development; and

Whereas, the WakeMed Biomedical Alliance will support biomedical research by accelerating the migration of innovative ideas, products, and devices into health care settings; and

Whereas, WakeMed Biomedical Alliance will align itself with university systems, the business community, and government entities; and

- Whereas, funding from the State will provide immediate job creation and create efficient and improved delivery of health care services through an integrated system; Now, therefore,
- 4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
 - **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to WakeMed Health & Hospitals, Inc., the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year for the planning and implementation of the WakeMed Biomedical
- 8 Alliance.

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9 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.