

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 1379**

Short Title: Funds for WakeMed Biomedical Alliance.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Reeves; Malone and Stevens.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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May 27, 2004

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO WAKEMED HEALTH & HOSPITALS,  
3 INC., FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAKEMED  
4 BIOMEDICAL ALLIANCE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           Whereas, funding from the State will provide immediate job creation and  
2 create efficient and improved delivery of health care services through an integrated  
3 system; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to WakeMed  
6 Health & Hospitals, Inc., the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the  
7 2004-2005 fiscal year for the planning and implementation of the WakeMed Biomedical  
8 Alliance.

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