May 17, 2006

H 2079. MH/DD/SA COMMUNITY CAPACITY/FINANCING REFORM. Filed 5/17/06. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO INCREASE INDEPENDENT AND SUPPORTIVE LIVING APARTMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTIONS, TO REVISE THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FINANCING ACT, TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR PSYCHIATRISTS TO WORK IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH TRUST FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES*. Appropriates $12,050,830 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), funds to be placed in the Trust Fund for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services and Bridge Funding Needs (Trust Fund). As title indicates, requires that DHHS, in cooperation with the NC Housing Finance Agency (HFA), use the funds to provide a cost subsidy for at least 400 apartments. Appropriates $11,250,000 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the HFA, funds to be placed in the NC Housing Trust Fund and used to finance the construction of at least 400 apartments. Appropriates $713,000 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to DHHS for on-going operation support for 12 group home beds and 93 apartments financed through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and $370,000 for start-up expenses. Appropriates an additional $20 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the Trust Fund. Amends SL 2005-276, Section 10.24.(b), to continue the requirement that in 2006-07 DHHS use at least 50% of Trust Fund monies for nonrecurring start-up funds for community-based services.

Amends GS 143-15.3D(c) to delete requirement that recurring savings resulting from closure of State psychiatric hospitals be used to pay the debt service for the construction of the new State psychiatric hospital, so that all savings will be credited to DHHS for community-based services. Appropriates $6,206,680 for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the Reserve for Debt Service, funds to be used to pay debt service incurred by the financing of the new psychiatric hospital to replace Dorothea Dix and John Umstead State psychiatric hospitals. States that it is the General Assembly's intent to pay the debt service on the new hospital.

Appropriates $1 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors, funds to be allocated to the UNC-CH Area Health Education Centers to implement a program to recruit psychiatrists to work in rural and underserved areas of the State to provide community services.

Effective July 1, 2006.

Intro. by Insko. GS 143, APPROP