

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 661**

Short Title: Rural Emergency Department Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Purcell; Albertson, Dannelly, Dorsett, Forrester, Lucas, and Malone.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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March 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
3 HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND  
4 RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL  
5 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT INCENTIVE FUND.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7       **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
8 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research, Demonstrations, and  
9 Rural Health Development, the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars  
10 (\$2,500,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of two million five hundred  
11 thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. These funds shall be used  
12 to establish the Rural Emergency Department Incentive Fund within the Office of  
13 Research, Demonstrations, and Rural Health Development. The purpose of the Fund is  
14 to make available grants to physicians who are adversely affected by the high cost of  
15 liability insurance. The grants shall be used solely for the purpose of subsidizing, in  
16 part or in whole, the costs associated with obtaining or maintaining liability insurance  
17 for physicians providing services in hospital emergency departments in health care  
18 manpower shortage areas of the State as defined by the Office of Research,  
19 Demonstrations, and Rural Health Development.

20       **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.