

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH70482-LB-358 (4/30)

Short Title: Carolinas Photonics Consortium Initiative.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Rapp.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO ACCELERATE THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF
3 PHOTONICS-BASED (LIGHT-BASED) TECHNOLOGIES FROM THE
4 REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS,
5 ATTRACT FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS, REALIZE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL
6 OF RESEARCH, AND CAPITALIZE ON THE INVESTMENT IN
7 PHOTONICS-BASED CAPABILITIES.

8 Whereas, the Carolinas Photonics Consortium (CPC) consists of the
9 University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina State University, Western
10 Carolina University, Duke University, and Clemson University; and

11 Whereas, the CPC campuses have received investments greater than
12 \$200,000,000 since 2001 for facilities and equipment for the research and education of
13 photonics-based technologies; and

14 Whereas, CPC is the largest concentration of photonics-based resources in the
15 United States; and

16 Whereas, the opto-electronics market which is served by photonics-based
17 technologies is \$250,000,000,000 and growing 12% annually; and

18 Whereas, photonics-based technologies are the core of most regional target
19 markets including: defense and security, lighting, automotive, medical,
20 telecommunications, and manufacturing; and

21 Whereas, the number of photonics-based new companies, spin-offs from
22 universities, licenses of technologies, or other commercial transfer of knowledge is
23 relatively small for the Carolinas; Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated to the Board of Governors of The
26 University of North Carolina the sum of one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars

1 (\$1,150,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of two million three hundred
2 thousand dollars (\$2,300,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to be used as follows:

- 3 (1) To provide seed funding for competitively submitted proposals from
4 the CPC universities for commercial photonics-based opportunities.
5 (2) To provide maturation funding for competitively submitted proposals
6 which have successfully progressed through the seed stage and are
7 supported by the external review board.
8 (3) To provide business and market development support from North
9 Carolina State University's HiTEC (High Technology
10 Entrepreneurship and Commercialization) program.
11 (4) To provide leadership and administrative support to manage the
12 projects and ensure progress versus established milestones.

13 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.