

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE DRH70237-LN-117 (2/21)**

Short Title: Funds for Community Health Education Center. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Tolson.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
3 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION  
4 CENTER.

5 Whereas, Edgecombe Community College provides training for area health  
6 care professionals and students; and

7 Whereas, Edgecombe Community College needs additional space to provide  
8 enhanced training for health care professionals and students from ECU Medical Center  
9 and other nearby medical training schools; and

10 Whereas, the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art community  
11 health education center would contribute substantially to the revitalization of Rocky  
12 Mount and surrounding areas through economic development and increased temporary  
13 and full-time employment; and

14 Whereas, the construction and operation of a community health education  
15 center would serve as a model for community colleges in other areas of the State; and

16 Whereas, when operational, the center would provide health information,  
17 screenings, and limited health care for at-risk county residents; Now, therefore,  
18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

19 **SECTION 1.(a)** Funds appropriated in subsection (b) of this section shall be  
20 for the construction of a community health education center ("center") on the Rocky  
21 Mount campus of Edgecombe Community College. The purpose of the center is to  
22 provide an accessible, central location for at-risk county residents to receive health  
23 information, screenings, and limited health treatment. The center shall serve as a model  
24 that could be replicated, if successful, in other areas of the State. The center shall  
25 provide a state-of-the-art simulated hospital environment for the simulation of  
26 patient-centered care, including emergency medical services; health information  
27 technology; emergency department care; nursing, medical, surgical, pediatric,

1 obstetrical, and psychiatric care; and intensive cardiac care. The center's hospital will  
2 provide clinical experiences for area professionals as well as allied health students in the  
3 areas of nursing, practical nursing, surgical technology, respiratory care, radiography,  
4 computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging technology, health information  
5 technology, medical assistant and nursing assistant care. Edgecombe Community  
6 College shall be the lead agency in this effort and shall work closely with the  
7 Edgecombe Community College Consortium, the UNC Health System, the City of  
8 Rocky Mount, and Area L Area Health Education Centers (AHECs).

9         **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Edgecombe  
10 Community College the sum of six million four hundred fifty thousand dollars  
11 (\$6,450,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to match local  
12 funds raised for the construction of a community health education center on the Rocky  
13 Mount campus of Edgecombe Community College. Funds appropriated in this section  
14 shall be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Edgecombe Community College and  
15 other entities that will be involved in and benefit from the community health education  
16 center. Funds appropriated under this section provide one-half of the anticipated cost to  
17 construct the community health education center. Funds appropriated under this section  
18 that are unexpended and unencumbered shall not revert to the General Fund but shall  
19 remain with the Edgecombe Community College to be used for the purposes authorized  
20 under this section.

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