

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS55054-MTa-152A

Short Title: New ECU Center for Telemedicine.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Davis (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TO
3 ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR TELEMEDICINE AND DIGITAL HEALTHCARE
4 ACCESS AND TO EXPAND THE STATEWIDE TELEPSYCHIATRY PROGRAM.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors
7 of The University of North Carolina for the 2022-2023 fiscal year the sum of two million dollars
8 (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to establish the Center for Telemedicine and Digital
9 Healthcare Access at East Carolina University (Center) to deliver patient care and service to
10 unserved and underserved areas, offer education and training for healthcare providers, and
11 enhance research capacity in areas such as clinical outcomes, social determinants of health,
12 implementation, science, and technology innovation. These funds shall be used for the following
13 specific purposes related to establishing the Center:

- 14 (1) Hiring, contracting, training, and otherwise supporting necessary personnel.
- 15 (2) The purchase or lease of necessary building space, equipment, and
16 technology.
- 17 (3) School telehealth clinics for students and public school personnel.
- 18 (4) Administrative costs.

19 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
20 Health and Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural
21 Health, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2022-2023
22 fiscal year to be allocated to the East Carolina University Center for Telepsychiatry and
23 e-Behavioral Health for the statewide telepsychiatry program established under
24 G.S. 143B-139.4B, known as NC-STeP. These funds shall be used to expand access to
25 telepsychiatry services through NC-STeP for students and employees at up to four additional
26 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.

27 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2022.

