

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10398-MKa-161

Short Title: Southern Regional AHEC Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lewis, Szoka, Brisson, and Lucas (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL AREA HEALTH
3 EDUCATION CENTER.

4 Whereas, the issue of access to health care in rural areas of North Carolina is of
5 paramount importance to the overall health and well-being of North Carolina citizens and a
6 crucial component of economic development and job creation; and

7 Whereas, the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program was created in 1972 to
8 address concerns with the supply, distribution, retention, and quality of health professionals; and

9 Whereas, southeastern North Carolina has numerous counties ranking in the bottom
10 half of health outcomes in the State, with several in the bottom quarter; and

11 Whereas, in 2018 the General Assembly appointed a Legislative Research
12 Commission on Access to Rural Health Care to develop strategies to improve rural outcome and
13 train medical professionals in rural areas; and

14 Whereas, the Legislative Research Commission on Access to Rural Health Care
15 found that one of the best ways to increase the number of health care providers in rural areas is
16 to increase the number of medical residents in rural areas; and

17 Whereas, the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center is located in
18 Fayetteville, North Carolina and works collaboratively with health care stakeholders throughout
19 the southeastern region to train physicians; and

20 Whereas, the General Assembly has historically utilized the AHEC system to provide
21 support for the development of medical residencies in rural areas of the State; Now, therefore,
22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors
24 of The University of North Carolina the sum of four million eight hundred thousand dollars
25 (\$4,800,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 school year to be allocated to the Southern
26 Regional Area Health Education Center (SR AHEC) to be used for residencies in the SR AHEC
27 service areas and for facility and structural improvements associated with current residency
28 programs.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.

