Short Title:	Advocacy for Long-Term Care Residents Act.	(Public)

Sponsors:	Representatives Cunningham and Cotham (Primary Sponsors).
	For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to:	Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 11, 2025

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2   AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3   SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES, TO ENHANCE
4   PROTECTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES BY MOVING
5   THE STATE'S LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM TOWARD NATIONAL
6   STANDARDS.
7   Whereas, Ombudsmen serve and protect some of the most vulnerable and needy
8   citizens in our State—residents of nursing homes, adult care homes, and family care homes; and
9   Whereas, Ombudsmen advocate for residents' rights; work to improve the quality of
10   care provided in facilities; and assist residents, family members, and providers in resolving
11   potentially contentious issues without resorting to formal complaint processes, thereby saving
12   the State and residents time and resources; and
13   Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and
14   Adult Services, oversees the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Now, therefore,
15   The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
16   **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
17   Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, the sum of three hundred
18   eighty thousand dollars ($380,000) in recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and the sum
19   of three hundred ninety-seven thousand dollars ($397,000) in recurring funds for the 2026-2027
20   fiscal year, to create four full-time ombudsman positions within the Office of the State
21   Long-Term Care Ombudsman in the Division of Aging and Adult Services, in order to move
22   North Carolina toward national standards for long-term care ombudsman programs.
23   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.