

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 888*

Short Title: State Veterans Home.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Tally; Edwards, Gunter, Marshall, Martin of Pitt, Sherron, Warren, Perdue, Forrester, and Lee.

Referred to: Children and Human Resources.

April 19, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO
2 CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A STATE VETERANS HOME
3 AND TO ASSIGN THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO
4 COORDINATE CONSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE
5 VETERANS HOME PROGRAM.
6

7 Whereas, there are more than 712,000 veterans in North Carolina, of whom
8 more than 200,000 are 65 years of age or older, with the percentage of older veterans
9 projected to grow significantly in the future; and

10 Whereas, the General Assembly authorized an independent study, the
11 Veterans Home Study Commission, to determine the feasibility of constructing a State
12 Veterans Home which, after due consideration, has determined that the construction of
13 the home is not only feasible but also necessary because of the aging veteran
14 population; and

15 Whereas, a consultant's report commissioned by the 1992 General Assembly
16 concurred with the consultant commissioned by the Veterans Home Study Commission
17 in projecting the need for a 240 domiciliary and skilled nursing care bed State Veterans
18 Home on a site adjacent to the Fayetteville VA Medical Center on land donated by the
19 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Cumberland County, and estimating the
20 construction cost to be approximately \$16,500,000, of which 65% would be provided by
21 the federal government; and

22 Whereas, the costs of maintaining and operating the State Veterans Home
23 would be approximately \$6,350,000 per year, the majority of which would be recouped

1 from various sources available to the aged and infirmed residents of the home, such as
2 Medicaid, VA per diem, compensation and pensions for disabled veterans, individual
3 payments, and other veterans health care benefits; and

4 Whereas, North Carolina is one of only seven states that does not provide a
5 state veterans home for the aged veterans of the State; Now, therefore,
6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. The State of North Carolina shall construct, maintain, and operate
8 a State Veterans Home for the aged and infirmed veterans of this State. The Division of
9 Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, shall have the responsibility for
10 coordinating the construction and overseeing the ongoing operation of the veterans
11 home. To the extent practicable, the Division shall use those portions of the feasibility
12 study commissioned by the 1992 General Assembly which facilitate the effective
13 completion of the State Veterans Home.

14 Sec. 2. The State Veterans Home shall be exempt from the State's certificate
15 of need requirements.

16 Sec. 3. The Division of Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, is
17 authorized to establish the Veterans Home Trust Fund through the Office of the State
18 Treasurer. This fund shall consist of funds and monies received through appropriations,
19 gifts, contributions, bequests, and individual reimbursements from any source, the
20 receipt of which does not exclude any other source of revenue. All funds received by
21 the Division from these sources shall be deposited in the State treasury and may be used
22 to remodel, repair, construct, modernize, or add improvements to buildings and facilities
23 necessary for the care of veterans. Any monies remaining in the fund at the end of the
24 fiscal year shall remain on deposit in the State treasury to the credit of the Veterans
25 Home Trust Fund.

26 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of
27 Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, the sum of six million two hundred
28 thirty thousand dollars (\$6,230,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year to provide the State's
29 participation in the cost of the construction of a State Veterans Home as outlined in the
30 report of the Veterans Home Study Commission, to include preliminary surveys, and to
31 provide additional staffing in the Division of Veterans Affairs related to the construction
32 and management of the State Veterans Home.

33 Sec. 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.