

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH50876-LG-672 (4/30)

Short Title: Osteoporosis Education Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Weiss, Alexander, and Walend (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OSTEOPOROSIS
2 EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA.
3

4 Whereas, osteoporosis is a disease characterized by thinning bones, leading to
5 bone fragility and increased risk of fractures of the spine, hip, and wrist; and

6 Whereas, osteoporosis progresses typically undiagnosed until a bone
7 fractures, and, once this occurs, osteoporosis is already so advanced that there is a high
8 risk of additional fractures; and

9 Whereas, osteoporosis has no cure, and, therefore, the key is to prevent it or
10 at least treat it early on to significantly reduce its associated morbidity, mortality, and
11 health care costs; and

12 Whereas, osteoporosis is a public health problem threatening the health and
13 quality of life of more than 1.27 million North Carolinians age 50 and older; and

14 Whereas, in North Carolina it is estimated that at least \$455 million were
15 spent in 2000 in medical costs for people with at least 34,355 osteoporotic fractures, and
16 this cost is expected to increase to \$797 million for 60,547 fractures by 2025; and

17 Whereas, one of two women and one of eight men over age 50 will suffer at
18 least one osteoporotic fracture; and

19 Whereas, health care providers and citizens of North Carolina lack adequate
20 knowledge in the prevention, detection, and treatment of osteoporosis; and

21 Whereas, educating the health professionals and the public can lead to
22 prevention altogether and early diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, and lessen
23 associated costs; Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North
26 Carolina Osteoporosis Foundation, a nonprofit organization, the sum of one hundred

- 1 fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to fund Osteoporosis
- 2 Education in North Carolina.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.