

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE DRS55321-MD-39 (3/12)**

Short Title: Military Community Grant Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Rand, Kerr, Dalton, Hagan, and Brown.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO MILITARY COMMUNITIES.

4       Whereas, North Carolina has the fourth-largest military presence of any state  
5 in the United States; and

6       Whereas, Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base are considered America's  
7 Rapid Reaction forces and Strategic Power Projection capability with Army Special  
8 Operations Command and the 82nd Airborne Division, which are the first to be called  
9 and respond to contingencies worldwide; and

10       Whereas, Camp LeJeune is one of the largest Marine bases in the country and  
11 is instrumental in supporting military operations around the world; and

12       Whereas, Seymour Johnson trains and deploys the Air Force's deep air strike  
13 capability with F-15E aircraft; and

14       Whereas, Cherry Point Naval Air Station trains and deploys Marine air strike  
15 capability; and

16       Whereas, these forces are instrumental to our nation's defense and to the  
17 strategic military capability of our nation; and

18       Whereas, the War on Terrorism and military operations in Afghanistan and  
19 Iraq have resulted in extensive deployments for the men and women in our military,  
20 especially from our military installations in North Carolina; and

21       Whereas, every brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division has deployed  
22 numerous times in the past three years, and in all, more than 136,000 service members  
23 from our State's military installations have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some  
24 units will serve a full year in Iraq, return to Fort Bragg for a few months and redeploy  
25 for another combat tour; and

26       Whereas, this high operational tempo and constant deployments, combined  
27 with injuries, deaths, and the physical and psychological effects of combat on military

1 members and their families who reside in our State has resulted in a very stressful  
2 environment, and in many cases created hardships for our military families and  
3 communities; and

4         Whereas, the incidences of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and mental health  
5 problems are on the rise within military families when soldiers return home, which  
6 affects families and communities; and

7         Whereas, when our service men and women are deployed, military families  
8 must cope with financial hardships, as well as challenges and disruptions to their normal  
9 family lives; and

10         Whereas, the family support provided by military units and installations is in  
11 many cases insufficient to prevent the severe stress associated with deployments and the  
12 possible loss of loved ones; and

13         Whereas, many young parents are not equipped or prepared to handle the  
14 financial and physical hardships; and

15         Whereas, there is a need for additional support from the State; and

16         Whereas, North Carolina is very proud of our men and women that serve in  
17 our Armed Forces and feel that we, as a State, have a responsibility to support our  
18 military and their families; Now, therefore,

19 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

20         **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
21 Department of Administration the sum of twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000) for  
22 the 2007-2008 fiscal year to provide grants to military communities in North Carolina to  
23 help those communities address the hardships that have arisen as a result of the War on  
24 Terrorism and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

25         **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.