

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1186*

Short Title: State Veterans Home.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Kinney; Alexander, Alphin, Arnold, Baddour, Balmer, Barbee, Barnes, Beall, Berry, Black, Bowen, Bowie, Bowman, Braswell, D. Brown, J. Brown, Brubaker, Burton, Cole, Colton, Crawford, Cummings, Cunningham, DeVane, Dickson, Dockham, Easterling, Edwards, Esposito, Fitch, Flaherty, Fussell, Gamble, Gardner, Gist, Grady, Green, Griffin, Hackney, Hall, Hayes, Hensley, Hightower, Hill, Holmes, Holt, Howard, Jack Hunt, H. Hunter, R. Hunter, Ives, James, Jarrell, Jeffus, Jenkins, Joye, Justus, Kennedy, Kuczmariski, Lee, Lemmond, Luebke, Lutz, Mavretic, McAllister, McCrary, McLaughlin, McLawhorn, Mercer, Michaux, B. Miller, G. Miller, Miner, Moore, Morgan, Nesbitt, Nichols, Nye, Oldham, C. Preston, J. Preston, Ramsey, Redwine, Richardson, Robinson, Rogers, Russell, Smith, Spears, Stamey, Stewart, Sutton, G. Thompson, R. Thompson, Wainwright, Warner, Weatherly, Wilkins, Wilmoth, C. Wilson, Wood, and Wright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 21, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

1 the home is not only feasible but also necessary because of the aging veteran
2 population; and

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

10 Whereas, the costs of maintaining and operating the State Veterans Home
11 would be approximately \$6,350,000 per year, the majority of which would be recouped
12 from various sources available to the aged and infirmed residents of the home, such as
13 Medicaid, VA per diem, compensation and pensions for disabled veterans, individual
14 payments, and other veterans health care benefits; and

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

18 Section 1. The State of North Carolina shall construct, maintain, and operate
19 a State Veterans Home for the aged and infirmed veterans of this State. The Division of
20 Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration, shall have the responsibility for
21 coordinating the construction and overseeing the ongoing operation of the veterans
22 home. To the extent practicable, the Division shall use those portions of the feasibility
23 study commissioned by the 1992 General Assembly which facilitate the effective
24 completion of the State Veterans Home.

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

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

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

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