



Whereas, sufficient funding must be provided if the General Assembly expects the Community College System to meet the economic development needs of the State of North Carolina, including continuing education, service to small business entrepreneurs, specialized training for traditional industries, and assistance to newly locating and expanding existing industries; and

Whereas, students, business, industry, and the communities in which they are located, must not only start smart, they must "Stay Smart"; and

Whereas, each adult learner, each small business person, each plant worker, and every member of the communities in which they live and work, must have the opportunity to Stay Smart as they prepare for work, deal with the redefinition of their jobs, and seek to obtain higher levels of job skills; and

Whereas, the vehicle in North Carolina that serves this public purpose is the North Carolina Community College System; and

Whereas, because the vehicle for staying smart is the North Carolina Community College System and because that vehicle does not have the funding to fulfill its mission, the General Assembly concludes that additional support is needed to guarantee quality instruction, to provide financial and academic counseling and support, and to procure instructional resources and materials; and

Whereas, staying smart necessitates proper instruction, proper direction, and proper tools; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
3 Community Colleges the sum of sixty-two million eight hundred eleven thousand forty-  
4 nine dollars (\$62,811,049) for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the sum of sixty-two million  
5 eight hundred eleven thousand forty-nine dollars (\$62,811,049) for the 2000-2001 fiscal  
6 year to:

- 7 (1) Bring faculty-to-student ratios in line with actual class sizes, thereby  
8 improving the quality of instruction through the reduction of faculty  
9 workloads and improvement of faculty compensation;
- 10 (2) Employ additional counselors, financial aid specialists, librarians, and  
11 technology specialists which provide both student and instructional  
12 support; and
- 13 (3) Enable the procurement of additional instructional software, license,  
14 supplies and materials, data processing, printing of course materials, and  
15 instructional professional development.

16 These funds will be deployed to ensure that adult learners can Stay Smart, stay  
17 productive, and stay employed in an ever-changing economy.

18 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.