## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

H HOUSE BILL 1977

Short Title: Carolinas Photonics Consortium Initiative. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Rapp and Haire (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

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## May 9, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ACCELERATE THE COMMERCIALIZATION **OF** PHOTONICS-BASED (LIGHT-BASED) **TECHNOLOGIES** FROM THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS. ATTRACT FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS, REALIZE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL RESEARCH, AND CAPITALIZE ON THE INVESTMENT IN PHOTONICS-BASED CAPABILITIES.

Whereas, the Carolinas Photonics Consortium (CPC) consists of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina State University, Western Carolina University, Duke University, and Clemson University; and

Whereas, the CPC campuses have received investments greater than \$200,000,000 since 2001 for facilities and equipment for the research and education of photonics-based technologies; and

Whereas, CPC is the largest concentration of photonics-based resources in the United States; and

Whereas, the opto-electronics market which is served by photonics-based technologies is \$250,000,000,000 and growing 12% annually; and

Whereas, photonics-based technologies are the core of most regional target markets including: defense and security, lighting, automotive, medical, telecommunications, and manufacturing; and

Whereas, the number of photonics-based new companies, spin-offs from universities, licenses of technologies, or other commercial transfer of knowledge is relatively small for the Carolinas; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** There is appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of two million three hundred thousand dollars (\$2,300,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to be used as follows:

projects and ensure progress versus established milestones.

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

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