

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 366

Short Title: Locate Veterans Affairs Nursing Home at WCU. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Haire; and E. Floyd.

Referred to: Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs, if favorable, Appropriations.

March 3, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE MILLENNIAL CAMPUS AT WESTERN CAROLINA
3 UNIVERSITY AS THE SITE FOR ONE OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSING
4 HOMES FUNDED IN 2006.

5 Whereas, in 2006 the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$8,773,300 to
6 the Department of Administration to provide the State match portion of funds needed to secure
7 federal grant funding for the construction of two Veterans Affairs nursing homes, one in the
8 eastern part of the State and one in the western part of the State; and

9 Whereas, the Veterans Affairs nursing home that is to be located in the eastern part
10 of the State is to be located in Kinston; and

11 Whereas, a site has not yet been selected for the Veterans Affairs nursing home to
12 be located in the western part of the State; and

13 Whereas, it is in the best interest of veterans in the western part of this State for the
14 nursing home to be constructed and become operational as soon as possible; and

15 Whereas, the needs of the veterans who will occupy such a nursing home are
16 diverse and require an interdisciplinary approach; and

17 Whereas, Western Carolina University could assist the United States Department of
18 Veterans Affairs in developing innovative programs for the care of persons with Alzheimer's
19 disease and dementia and specifically could augment the services available to veterans by
20 permitting its students to assist with the provision of nursing, physical therapy, speech
21 pathology, recreation therapy, emergency medical care, social work, athletic training, nutrition,
22 and other services; and

23 Whereas, this would serve the dual purpose of enhancing veterans' lives and
24 educating the next generation of health care providers; Now, therefore,

25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** The Veterans Affairs nursing home that is to be located in the
27 western part of North Carolina shall be located on the Millennial Campus of Western Carolina
28 University. State matching funds necessary to secure federal grant funding for the nursing
29 home were appropriated in S.L. 2006-66. The Department of Administration shall attempt to
30 secure the federal matching portion of funds necessary to commence building the nursing home
31 as soon as possible and shall commence construction as soon as possible.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

