

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 973**

Short Title: NC Cardiovascular Diseases Inst./Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Jenkins; Dorsett, Hargett, Holloman, Kerr, Lucas, Malone,  
Moore, Purcell, Rand, Soles, Swindell, Thomas, and Weinstein.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE  
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO CONSTRUCT THE NORTH  
4 CAROLINA CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES INSTITUTE AT EAST  
5 CAROLINA UNIVERSITY.

6       Whereas, the State of North Carolina has one of the highest incidences of  
7 advanced cardiovascular disease in the nation, killing one in four North Carolinians  
8 yearly; and

9       Whereas, in North Carolina cardiovascular diseases lead hospital admissions  
10 and in the years 1995 and 1996 alone resulted in over 304,000 inpatient admissions with  
11 parallel associated costs exceeding over four billion dollars; and

12       Whereas, this State has the fifteenth highest death rate from cardiac illnesses  
13 in the country and the fourth highest death rate from stroke in the United States; and

14       Whereas, the 29 counties of Eastern North Carolina are plagued by a  
15 multiplier of the average death rate because of limited access to clinical care, inadequate  
16 diagnostic outreach, a paucity of new technology and lagging prevention methods; and

17       Whereas, working together through the University Health Systems of Eastern  
18 Carolina, the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and Pitt County  
19 Memorial Hospital have become the major resources for treatment, education, and  
20 research for these costly diseases and in recent years have extended services and  
21 programs to the entire State; and

22       Whereas, there is both a desire and a need to expand the clinical and basic  
23 research efforts at the Brody School of Medicine, clinical, as well as education and  
24 training through a new multidisciplinary, internationally recognized cardiovascular  
25 disease institute that would serve all citizens of the State; and

26       Whereas, the broad areas of focus of this expanded clinical and research  
27 effort would include heart and vascular disease, hypertension, and stroke, as well as  
28 developing new technologies in surgery and medicine; and

1           Whereas, this effort would be comprised of two structural components: a  
2 cardiovascular clinical research and education center and a basic science research  
3 center; and

4           Whereas, an integrative approach would be used that would effectively  
5 integrate cardiovascular service lines; and

6           Whereas, these centers would also house a central cardiovascular data center  
7 that would be a repository for all images, diagnostic and medical records, and  
8 hemodynamic demographic data related to the hospital and center; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of  
11 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of sixty million dollars  
12 (\$60,000,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year to construct the North Carolina  
13 Cardiovascular Diseases Institute at East Carolina University.

14           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.