

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 182

Short Title: Housing Trust Fund Appropriation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Goforth, Earle, J. Harrell (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Allen, Barnhart, Bordsen, Bryant, Carney, Church, Coleman, Dickson, Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Frye, Glazier, Goodwin, Hall, T. Harrell, Harrison, Holliman, Insko, Jeffus, Luebke, Martin, McComas, McGee, Parmon, Pierce, Setzer, Stam, Thomas, Wainwright, Walend, Weiss, West, Womble, and Wray.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 14, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE NORTH
2 CAROLINA HOUSING TRUST FUND.

3
4 Whereas, homeownership is the primary means by which families and
5 individuals of low and moderate incomes build wealth; and

6 Whereas, a range of housing types and costs are necessary for a healthy,
7 vibrant, and inclusive community in which all citizens are welcome and have the
8 opportunity for economic success; and

9 Whereas, people who work in our communities should also be able to live in
10 them, with a range of housing options located near employment, health care services,
11 schools, child care, and other amenities; and

12 Whereas, there exists throughout North Carolina a serious shortage of decent,
13 safe, and sanitary residential and rental housing available at affordable prices to persons
14 and families of low and moderate incomes; and

15 Whereas, this shortage is inimical to the health, safety, welfare, and
16 prosperity of all residents of and communities in the State affecting the ability of
17 children to succeed in school, the elderly to live independently, the disabled to avoid
18 institutionalization, the homeless to find housing, victims of domestic violence to
19 escape their situations, and communities to be vital and desirous places to live; and

20 Whereas, the current lack of affordable housing impacts economic
21 development because businesses will not locate in communities where workers cannot
22 live; and

23 Whereas, investment in the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund will help
24 families realize their dreams of safe, decent, and affordable homes, create jobs, increase

1 State and local tax revenues, and leverage millions of dollars in additional investment in
2 housing; and

3 Whereas, in fiscal year 2006-2007, the North Carolina General Assembly
4 appropriated \$3,000,000 in recurring funds and \$15,900,000 in nonrecurring funds to
5 the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund, \$10,900,000 of which was designated for
6 apartments for very-low-income disabled persons, evidencing the flexibility of the
7 North Carolina Housing Trust Fund to address specific housing needs in North
8 Carolina; and

9 Whereas, according to United States Census, over 750,000 North Carolina
10 households, including the elderly, working families, disabled, and victims of domestic
11 violence, continue to be in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing; and

12 Whereas, it is estimated that an annual investment of \$50,000,000 in the
13 North Carolina Housing Trust Fund will help over 6,000 North Carolina families each
14 year, generate over 3,000 jobs each year, increase State and local tax revenues by over
15 \$30,000,000 each year, and leverage over \$200,000,000 in total investments in
16 affordable housing each year; and

17 Whereas, the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund has provided resources
18 since 1987 for homeownership, construction, and repair of housing for families, seniors,
19 persons with physical and mental health disabilities, persons escaping domestic
20 violence, and people transitioning from homelessness, with all funds going towards
21 building, repairing, or financing of homes and none to administration; and

22 Whereas, the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund is nationally recognized
23 and has won several national awards for efficiency and effectiveness of its program;
24 Now, therefore,

25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North
27 Carolina Housing Finance Agency the sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) for
28 each fiscal year of the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium for the North Carolina Housing Trust
29 Fund.

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