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- 29          **I.     STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND FINDINGS**
- 30          Section 2. (a) It is the goal of the General Assembly that North Carolina
- 31          citizens benefit from a prosperous and healthy economy which (i) encourages the growth
- 32          of both new and existing businesses and industries, (ii) creates new jobs and nurtures
- 33          existing jobs, (iii) improves the quality of life, and (iv) produces revenues to provide and
- 34          support essential government services.
- 35          (b) The General Assembly finds that a prosperous and healthy economy
- 36          depends on the ability of North Carolina businesses and industries to respond effectively
- 37          to rapid changes in the workplace resulting from technology and competition in a global
- 38          economy. Building and maintaining a workforce capable of such responses creates two
- 39          new imperatives for increasing citizens' access to education and training:
- 40                (1) Formal education beyond high school to bridge the gap between the
- 41                number of qualified workers entering the workforce and the number of
- 42                new jobs which will require one to two years of education beyond high
- 43                school, and

1 (2) Retraining of existing employees in order to bridge the gap between  
2 their current knowledge and skills and the knowledge and skills which  
3 their jobs will require in the future.

4 (c) The General Assembly finds further that the State's investments in the  
5 North Carolina Community College System have provided a basic infrastructure which is  
6 poised to address these critical needs for education and training. With adequate funding,  
7 community colleges are capable of meeting the workforce development needs of the  
8 State. In order to maintain and improve existing programs and meet the additional  
9 demands for education and training, the North Carolina Community College System must  
10 address needs in four essential areas:

- 11 (1) Capacity to respond to emerging workforce training needs of business  
12 and industry;
- 13 (2) Capacity to respond to employers' needs for essential basic skills;
- 14 (3) Ability to provide academic and skill preparation for the future; and
- 15 (4) Ability to provide quality education and training with state-of-the-art  
16 technology, equipment, and books.

## 17

## 18 **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT**

## 19 **LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND FINDINGS**

## 20

### 21 **A. CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGING WORKFORCE**

### 22 **TRAINING NEEDS OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

23 Section 3. The capacity of community colleges to design and deliver  
24 customized, quality, and timely instructional responses to meet the diverse needs of  
25 employers and employees is an essential element in maintaining and expanding the  
26 State's economy. Funds in this area will enhance community colleges' capacity and  
27 flexibility in retraining current employees by providing adequate funding for  
28 occupational continuing education courses and services; therefore, there is appropriated  
29 from the General Fund to the Department of Community Colleges the sum of nineteen  
30 million nine hundred eighty-seven thousand thirty-four dollars (\$19,987,034) for the  
31 1997-98 fiscal year and the sum of nineteen million nine hundred eighty-seven thousand  
32 thirty-four dollars (\$19,987,034) for the 1998-99 fiscal year for the purpose of raising the  
33 occupational extension unit value to the level of the curriculum unit value.

### 34

### 35 **B. CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO EMPLOYERS' NEEDS FOR**

### 36 **ESSENTIAL BASIC SKILLS**

37 Section 4. A major component of helping the State's workforce achieve and  
38 maintain necessary employment skills involves providing courses and services which  
39 enable employees to develop basic skills in reading, writing, math, problem solving,  
40 working with one another, and English as a second language. Enhanced funding to  
41 support basic skills and literacy instruction is needed; therefore, there is appropriated  
42 from the General Fund to the Department of Community Colleges the sum of six million  
43 seventy-two thousand thirty-six dollars (\$6,072,036) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the

1 sum of seven million one hundred forty-four thousand seventy-two dollars (\$7,144,072)  
2 for the 1998-99 fiscal year for the purpose of raising basic skills to curriculum-level  
3 funding.

4  
5 **C. ABILITY TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC AND SKILL**  
6 **PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE**

7 Section 5. Associate degree, diploma, and certificate curriculum programs  
8 designed to prepare people for employment or transfer to a higher-level degree represent  
9 the primary gateway to employability and economic self-sufficiency. Funds in this area  
10 will enhance community colleges' capacity and flexibility to serve people and  
11 communities by fostering new program development, enhancing existing associate  
12 degree, diploma, and certificate programs, integrating workplace skills into the  
13 curriculum, and offsetting high costs in vital high technology fields; therefore, there is  
14 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Community Colleges the sum  
15 of sixteen million five hundred thirty-eight thousand seven hundred twenty-four dollars  
16 (\$16,538,724) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the sum of thirty-three million seventy-  
17 seven thousand four hundred forty-eight dollars (\$33,077,448) for the purpose of  
18 enhancing salaries and adjusting student-teacher ratios.

19  
20 **D. ABILITY TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION AND**  
21 **TRAINING WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY,**  
22 **EQUIPMENT, AND BOOKS**

23 Section 6. Funds will provide cutting-edge, state-of-the-art technology,  
24 equipment, and books essential for effective, quality programs in all areas of instruction  
25 including curriculum, occupational continuing education, and literacy; therefore, there is  
26 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Community Colleges the sum  
27 of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the sum of thirty  
28 million dollars (\$30,000,000) for the purpose of purchasing new technical and vocational  
29 equipment and books.

30  
31 **III. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**  
32 **ACT**

33 Section 7. The State Board of Community Colleges shall report to the Joint  
34 Legislative Education Oversight Committee prior to October 1, 1998, on the impact the  
35 funds appropriated under this act have had on the ability of each community college to  
36 implement the institutional effectiveness plan that is tailored to the specific mission of  
37 each college and to meet the goals of the North Carolina Community College System. In  
38 preparing the report, the State Board of Community Colleges shall include the data  
39 submitted by each college for the 1996-97 and 1997-98 fiscal years, in the "Critical  
40 Success Factors" report and shall focus primarily on program outcomes.

41  
42 **IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

1           **A.    CAPTIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND DO NOT**  
2           **LIMIT TEXT**

3           Section 8. The series of captions used in this act (the descriptive phrases in  
4 boldface and capital letters) are inserted for convenience and reference only, and they in  
5 no way define, limit, or prescribe the scope or application of the text of the act.  
6

7           **B.    EFFECTIVE DATES**

8           Section 9. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.