

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 631

Short Title: University Research Status Enhancement Fund. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Reives, Quick, Clemmons, and T. Brown (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 18, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STATUS ENHANCEMENT  
3 FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE  
4 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended  
7 by adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 116-29.6. University Research Status Enhancement Fund.**

9 (a) Fund. – There is created the University Research Status Enhancement Fund as an  
10 interest-bearing, nonreverting special fund to be administered by the Board of Governors of The  
11 University of North Carolina. The Board of Governors shall allocate moneys from the Fund, in  
12 its discretion, to assist high research activity institutions to (i) diversify their degree-awarding  
13 programs and (ii) attract additional research faculty.

14 (b) Purpose. – The purpose of the Fund is to upgrade high research activity institutions  
15 into very high research activity institutions and improve the national profiles of these institutions  
16 with the ultimate goal of boosting the ability of these institutions to attract student and faculty  
17 talent, obtain greater research funding, and have a positive impact on their local economies and  
18 workforces.

19 (c) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

20 (1) Fund. – The University Research Status Enhancement Fund.

21 (2) High research activity institution. – A constituent institution of The University  
22 of North Carolina that is classified as R2 – High Research Activity by the most  
23 recent report of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher  
24 Education.

25 (3) Very high research activity institution. – A constituent institution of The  
26 University of North Carolina that is classified as R1 – Very High Research  
27 Activity by the most recent report of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions  
28 of Higher Education."

29 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the University  
30 Research Status Enhancement Fund the sum of forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) in  
31 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to be used as described in G.S. 116-29.6, as  
32 enacted by this act.

33 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

