

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

**H**

**1**

HOUSE BILL 1000

Short Title: Grassroots Science Funds.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Abernethy; and Duncan.

---

Referred to: Basic Resources.

---

April 3, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GRASSROOTS SCIENCE PROGRAM  
2 BY THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES TO IMPROVE STATE  
3 PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION.  
4

5 Whereas, the North Carolina Museums Council has recommended active  
6 support for the resolution of the issue of State funding for museums, with the objective  
7 of an equitable process by which funding support of operations and projects at  
8 creditable institutions may be solicited, apportioned, and accounted for; and

9 Whereas, the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council  
10 established by the General Assembly in 1981 has provided consistent support to arts  
11 programs across the State; and

12 Whereas, the definition of culture which the Arts Council uses to establish  
13 eligibility for its funds specifically excludes sciences (Chapter 655, 1973 Session Laws)  
14 and science museums educational programs have never been funded by the Arts  
15 Council; and

16 Whereas, serious concerns are being expressed at the national and State levels  
17 by scientists and educators about the nation's math and science programs; and

18 Whereas, the State's science museums, recognized as being at the forefront in  
19 interpreting science to our citizenry and serving as an important resource for the  
20 education of students and teachers, share these concerns; and

21 Whereas, the State's eight metropolitan science museums, located in  
22 Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, and  
23 Winston-Salem, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural

1 Sciences have developed a program which would enable the science museums of the  
2 State to resolve some of these concerns; and

3           Whereas, a Grassroots Science Program would provide consistent support to  
4 science museums that would allow the development of a State science outreach program  
5 which, in time, would be comparable to the State's program of support for the arts;

6 Now, therefore,

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
9 Agriculture the sum of one million eight hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$1,820,000)  
10 for the 1989-90 fiscal year and the sum of one million nine hundred eighteen thousand  
11 dollars (\$1,918,000) for fiscal year 1990-91 for development of a grassroots science  
12 program by the Museum of Natural Sciences to serve local museums and nature centers.

13           Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.