

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 421*

Short Title: Grassroots Science Museum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Seymour; Hunt, Shaw, Gulley, Ward, Hyde, Winner of Mecklenburg, Odom, Winner of Buncombe, Cooper, Allran, Martin of Guilford, Forrester, Richardson, Hoyle, Blackmon, and Kaplan.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 25, 1993

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.
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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 of operations and projects at creditable
8 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 "cultural purpose" in G.S. 105-278.3(d)(5) that the
13 Arts Council uses to establish eligibility for its funds does not include sciences; and

14 Whereas, science museums' educational programs have never been funded by
15 the Arts Council; and

16 Whereas, serious concerns are being expressed at the national and State levels
17 by scientists and educators about the nation's mathematics 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 nine metropolitan science museums, located in
22 Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, Wilson,

1 and Winston-Salem, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural
2 Sciences, have developed a program that would enable the science museums of the State
3 to resolve some of these concerns; and

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

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
10 Agriculture the sum of one million nine hundred seventy-seven thousand ninety-five
11 dollars (\$1,977,095) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million nine
12 hundred fifty-three thousand three hundred fourteen dollars (\$1,953,314) for the 1994-
13 95 fiscal year, for the development of a grassroots science program by the Museum of
14 Natural Sciences to serve local museums and nature centers.

15 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.