

Whereas, the State's metropolitan science museums (which are regional museums that further public understanding of science, the environment, and technology, and enhance science education in schools and communities throughout the State of North Carolina) in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, have developed a program that would enable the science museums of the State to resolve some of these concerns; and

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

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
3 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of one million two hundred
4 thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the 1995-96 fiscal year and the sum of one million two
5 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the 1996-97 fiscal year for the full funding of
6 the Grassroots Science Museum Program through the North Carolina State Museum of
7 Natural Sciences to serve local museums and science centers and enhance a State
8 outreach program in science and environmental education. The membership in the
9 Grassroots Science Museum Program shall be determined and funds shall be distributed
10 by a process developed by the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural
11 Resources with consultation with the Grassroots Science Museums which allocates fifty
12 thousand dollars (\$50,000) to each Grassroots Science Museum and an additional
13 percentage based on the operating budget of each museum.

14 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.