

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

**H**

**2**

**HOUSE BILL 1280  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/05**

Short Title: DOT Report/Federal Rail Assistance to NC.

(Public)

---

Sponsors:

---

Referred to:

---

April 19, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPORT  
3 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON STRATEGIES TO BEST UTILIZE  
4 FEDERAL FUNDS FOR RAIL IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS SERVICE TO  
5 WESTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA AND RESTORATION  
6 OF THE WALLACE TO CASTLE HAYNE RAIL CORRIDOR.

7       Whereas, expanding and upgrading passenger, freight, commuter, and short  
8 line rail service is important to the economy of North Carolina; and

9       Whereas, the citizens of this State have stated their support for expanded  
10 passenger rail service through resolutions from over 100 cities, towns, and organizations  
11 submitted to the House Interim Committee on Expanding Rail Service in the fall of  
12 2004; and

13       Whereas, Congress is debating reauthorization of the federal Surface  
14 Transportation Program; and

15       Whereas, Congress is considering new and innovative means of financing  
16 construction of transportation infrastructure, including highways, transit, intermodal,  
17 and rail projects; and

18       Whereas, Congress is debating reform of the National Railroad Passenger  
19 Corporation, known as Amtrak, and the result may be more responsibilities for rail  
20 transferred to the states; and

21       Whereas, it is in the best interest of the State of North Carolina to respond in  
22 a timely way to these proposed changes as they impact our transportation programs and  
23 economic development opportunities; and

24       Whereas, many rail corridors in the State, such as the Wallace to Castle  
25 Hayne rail corridor, are in need of restoration and improvement; and

26       Whereas, many rail initiatives in the State, including service to western and  
27 southeastern North Carolina, are in need of federal and State investment; Now,  
28 therefore,

29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1           **SECTION 1.** The Department of Transportation is directed, no more than 60  
2 days following enactment of reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation  
3 Program, to develop and report its recommendations on strategies, using funds available  
4 to the Department, to provide matching funds so the State can leverage the maximum  
5 federal and private participation in funding needed rail initiatives, such as the  
6 restoration of the rail corridor from Wallace to Castle Hayne, and service to the western  
7 and southeastern parts of the State.

8           **SECTION 2.** The Department shall submit its report to the Joint  
9 Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, or if the General Assembly is not in  
10 session, to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee.

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