

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE BILL 1280
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/05
Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 7/6/05
Fourth Edition Engrossed 7/7/05**

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

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

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Transportation is directed, no more than 60
6 days following enactment of reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation
7 Program, to develop and report its recommendations on strategies, using funds available
8 to the Department, to provide matching funds so the State can leverage the maximum
9 federal and private participation in funding needed rail initiatives, such as the
10 restoration of the rail corridor from Wallace to Castle Hayne, a rail connection between
11 north-south and east-west routes in the vicinity of Pembroke, service to Winston-Salem,
12 and service to the western and southeastern parts of the State.

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

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