

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 106

Short Title: Cultural Resources/Preserve Cemeteries/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Justus, Spear, Johnson, E. Warren (Primary Sponsors);
Brubaker, Church, Coates, Crawford, England, Frye, Gulley, Haire, Hill,
Holliman, Howard, Kiser, Langdon, Lewis, Love, Lucas, McElraft,
Mobley, Pate, Rapp, Steen, Sutton, Tucker, Underhill, Wainwright,
Walker, R. Warren, West, and Womble.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 8, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES TO
2 TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS IN PRESERVING ABANDONED CEMETERIES
3 BY UNDERTAKING THE NORTH CAROLINA CEMETERY SURVEY AND
4 ABANDONED CEMETERY STEWARDARDSHIP PROGRAM AND
5 APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT, AS RECOMMENDED
6 BY THE HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE ON ABANDONED CEMETERIES.
7

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Cultural Resources shall carry out the
10 following duties as funds and staffing permit:

11 (a) North Carolina Cemetery Survey and Abandoned Cemetery Stewardship
12 Program.

13 (1) Establish a North Carolina Cemetery Survey and Abandoned
14 Cemetery Stewardship Program, to include an Adopt-A-Cemetery
15 program.

16 (2) Identify public and private grants that may be used to supplement a
17 statewide county survey and an Adopt-A-Cemetery program for
18 abandoned cemeteries.

19 (3) Work with individuals, nonprofit organizations, and local governments
20 to develop a statewide program of county cemetery survey teams with
21 county coordinators.

22 (4) Create a unified system of research, evaluation, and recording
23 procedures to assist individuals, nonprofit organizations, and local
24 governments in the compilation of cemetery data.

- 1 (5) Assist individuals, nonprofit organizations, and local governments
2 through training, technical assistance, and development of material
3 with their efforts to survey cemeteries and to maintain abandoned
4 cemeteries, and where staff and funding permit, assist individuals,
5 nonprofit organizations, and local governments in their efforts to
6 maintain historic cemeteries.
- 7 (6) Develop an educational program designed to stimulate and maintain
8 public interest in preserving abandoned cemeteries, including the
9 development of uniform signs.
- 10 (7) Maintain a statewide centralized database, and in coordination with the
11 Center for Geographical Information Analysis (CGIA) record
12 Geographical Information System (GIS) data on the State's cemeteries
13 to include a category for abandoned cemeteries.
- 14 (8) Distribute appropriate information regarding abandoned cemeteries to
15 associations and agencies that may discover abandoned cemeteries
16 while in the performance of their duties.

17 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Cultural Resources shall, in addition to any
18 other recommendations, prepare studies and plans, and submit a biennial report of its
19 progress to the General Assembly.

20 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
21 Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, the sum of one
22 hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred eighty dollars (\$199,980) for the 2007-2008
23 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred sixty-eight thousand eighty dollars (\$168,080)
24 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this act.

25 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.