A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE THE NORTH CAROLINA TEXTILE MUSEUM AND TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SAME.

Whereas, the North Carolina Office of Archives and History was directed, pursuant
to S.L. 2019-118, to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a textile museum to preserve and
interpret the State's textile heritage and industrial history; and

Whereas, the feasibility study report was submitted to the North Carolina Historical
Commission on May 29, 2020, and approved unanimously at the Commission's meeting on
September 3, 2020; and

Whereas, the feasibility study report was submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources on July 17, 2020; and

Whereas, the Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, is the
owner of real property in Franklinville and Cedar Falls on the Deep River in Randolph County,
which includes two of the earliest cotton textile mills in the State; and

Whereas, Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., is also the custodian of 25,000
square feet of textile history artifacts and machinery acquired from the former American Textile
History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, now warehoused in its properties; and

Whereas, the feasibility study committee evaluated the Randolph Heritage properties
and collections and found them to be "exceptional…unrivaled in its breadth and depth and
described by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as a national treasure"; and

Whereas, Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., has spent more than $400,000 to
preserve and transport its collections to North Carolina and to purchase sufficient space to house
and interpret them to the public; and

Whereas, Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc.'s, properties are centrally located and
easily accessible to the public and provide a variety of synergetic marketing opportunities in
coordination with the nearby Deep River State Trail and North Carolina Zoological Park; and

Whereas, Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., is willing to enter into a
memorandum of understanding with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources whereby
the property at Cedar Falls and the American Textile Technology collections can be transferred
to the State in phases, pursuant to the implementation of business development, staffing,
programming, and exhibit plans; and

Whereas, Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., acting as the museum's nonprofit
support group, can coordinate administrative and operational functions, performing upgrades to
the building and properties required to accommodate the public, pursuant to grants provided by
the State; Now, therefore,
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is established the North Carolina Textile Museum to preserve the State's textile industrial heritage and mill village culture; to demonstrate the science, engineering, and technology involved in that industry; and to present it to a wide public audience in an interesting and entertaining way.

SECTION 2. The recommendations of the Textile Museum Feasibility Study Committee are adopted, and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is directed to work with Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for a textile museum and to plan for the transfer of assets and responsibilities to the State in an orderly fashion.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to Randolph Heritage Conservancy, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to implement a comprehensive plan for the North Carolina Textile Museum under the supervision of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

SECTION 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.