

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

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HOUSE BILL 297

Short Title: Funds for Fort Fisher Historic Site. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Davis.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 8, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO COMPLETE PHASE TWO OF THE CAPITAL
3 IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FORT FISHER STATE HISTORIC SITE.

4 Whereas, the Fort Fisher State Historic Site is the most visited of the State's 27 historic
5 sites, attracting more than one million visitors in 2021; and

6 Whereas, many of Fort Fisher's visitors consist of school groups from New Hanover
7 County; groups from summer camp programs, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and
8 Junior ROTC; residents from nursing homes; military groups; families; and other tourists; and

9 Whereas, to better accommodate its visitors and upgrade its facilities, Fort Fisher has
10 begun phase one of capital improvements, which consists of a new visitors' center, parking lot,
11 and maintenance facility; and

12 Whereas, the General Assembly appropriated \$22,000,000 to complete phase one of
13 the capital improvements at Fort Fisher; and

14 Whereas, the Friends of Fort Fisher desires to proceed with phase two of the
15 improvements at the site, which includes the reconstruction of three of the original earthworks
16 (mounds) that housed a telegraph office, a field hospital, living quarters, and storage depots for
17 ammunition; and

18 Whereas, the reconstructed earthworks would recreate these operations, be accessible
19 to visitors, and provide a unique attraction for the site; and

20 Whereas, the cost to reconstruct the earthworks is \$3,567,204, but if the funding can
21 be provided by September of 2023, phase two can begin in conjunction with phase one,
22 generating a savings of \$260,000 for a net cost of \$3,307,204 to complete phase two; and

23 Whereas, the Friends of Fort Fisher plans to raise \$1,000,000 for phase two, of which
24 \$412,000 will go towards the reconstruction and \$588,000 will cover the cost of relocating utility
25 lines, conducting an archaeological study of the old earthworks, and purchasing cannons for the
26 remainder of phase two; Now, therefore,

27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

28 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
29 Natural and Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, the sum of two million eight
30 hundred ninety-five thousand two hundred four dollars (\$2,895,204) in nonrecurring funds for
31 the 2023-2024 fiscal year to complete phase two of the capital improvements at the Fort Fisher
32 State Historic Site.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.

