

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 368

Short Title: N.C. Aquarium Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Payne, J. Crawford, and S. Hunt.

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Referred to: Basic Resources.

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February 27, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA  
2 AQUARIUMS.  
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4 Whereas, the three North Carolina aquariums have experienced a sixteen  
5 percent (16%) increase in visitation per year; and

6 Whereas, the aquariums contribute much to the State's educational curriculum  
7 by providing over 1,600 public programs in which over 50,000 school students have  
8 participated; and

9 Whereas, the aquariums have experienced a thirty-five percent (35%)  
10 increase in school group attendance per year; and

11 Whereas, the aquariums offer much to the public by providing many  
12 programs geared toward family participation, such as wild food weekends, nature hikes  
13 through salt marshes, and crabbing, sea turtles, and trolling programs; and

14 Whereas, the aquariums have experienced a thirty-eight percent (38%)  
15 increase in public program participation; and

16 Whereas, the aquariums strive to increase environmental awareness by  
17 offering programs to the public on topics such as beach erosion and ocean pollution; and

18 Whereas, the aquariums are understaffed to handle the increase in  
19 community and educational participation with the current ratio of one staff member to  
20 50,000 visitors; and

21 Whereas, the aquariums have faulty heating and cooling systems that need  
22 repairing or replacing; and

23 Whereas, pipes, light fixtures, and ventilation systems in the aquariums are  
24 rusted from the salt air and need repairing; and

1           Whereas, the aquarium at Roanoke Island is threatened by shoreline erosion  
2 caused by the failure to repair the old bulkheads constructed at the aquarium in the  
3 1940's; and

4           Whereas, the old siding at all three aquariums is falling away from the  
5 buildings and rotting around the window sills; Now, therefore,  
6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
8 Administration, the Marine Affairs Division, the sum of two million three hundred  
9 thirteen thousand five hundred seven dollars (\$2,313,507) for the 1989-90 fiscal year  
10 and the sum of two million two hundred fifty-five thousand eight hundred seventy-eight  
11 dollars (\$2,255,878) for the 1990-91 fiscal year for the operating expenses of the three  
12 North Carolina aquariums. These amounts shall become part of the continuation budget  
13 of the Department of Administration.

14           Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
15 Administration, the Marine Affairs Division, the sum of six hundred sixty-three  
16 thousand eight hundred dollars (\$663,800) for the 1989-90 fiscal year to be used for  
17 capital projects at the three North Carolina aquariums such as constructing and paving  
18 the parking lots, replacing the old siding on the buildings, repairing the bulkheads at the  
19 Roanoke Island Aquarium, and building energy enclosures at the aquariums.

20           Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
21 Administration, the Marine Affairs Division, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
22 dollars (\$250,000) for the 1989-90 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred fifty  
23 thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 1990-91 fiscal year to be used for architectural site  
24 designs and exhibit plans for the three North Carolina aquariums.

25           Sec. 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.