

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1002

Short Title: CSS Neuse Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives LaRoque and Wainwright (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 31, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO RELOCATE AND PRESERVE THE CSS
2 NEUSE GUNBOAT.

3
4 Whereas, during the Civil War, the Confederate navy commissioned 22
5 ironclad gunboats, including the CSS Neuse, which was built in North Carolina; and

6 Whereas, in 1865, the crew of the CSS Neuse burned the vessel, causing it to
7 sink in the Neuse River, where it remained for almost 100 years; and

8 Whereas, the remnants of the CSS Neuse were discovered in 1961 and raised
9 in 1963; and

10 Whereas, the CSS Neuse has been on display at the CSS Neuse State Historic
11 Site and Governor Richard Caswell Memorial in Kinston since 1963; and

12 Whereas, the CSS Neuse is one of only three surviving ironclads on display
13 in the United States and the only commissioned Confederate ironclad on display in the
14 world; and

15 Whereas, the CSS Neuse is North Carolina's largest historical artifact; and

16 Whereas, the CSS Neuse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places
17 and a designated project of Save America's Treasures; and

18 Whereas, plans have been made to establish the regional CSS Neuse Civil
19 War Museum in Kinston with the CSS Neuse as the main exhibit; and

20 Whereas, an estimated 50,000 visitors are expected to visit the future
21 museum, which will boost heritage tourism and the economy in the Kinston area; and

22 Whereas, according to preservation experts, the CSS Neuse is deteriorating
23 rapidly and will be unable to survive relocation if not moved in three to seven years and
24 may become unsuitable for display within 12 to 16 years unless steps are taken to
25 protect it; and

26 Whereas, funds are needed to move the CSS Neuse from its current location
27 to the site of the future museum and to construct an environmentally controlled
28 enclosure to preserve this historic vessel; Now, therefore,
29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2 Department of Cultural Resources, Historic Sites Division, the sum of one million six
3 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to relocate the CSS
4 Neuse gunboat and to construct an environmentally controlled enclosure to preserve the
5 vessel.

6 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.