

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 361*

Short Title: Geography Based Curriculum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Plyler, Martin of Pitt, Taft; and Conder.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 8, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GEOGRAPHY BASED CURRICULUM PROGRAM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Whereas, North Carolina is in an excellent position to rapidly implement a statewide geographic alliance network because the State Department of Public Instruction has eight regional offices staffed by professional educators to serve all parts of the State; and

Whereas, in June 1985, the General Assembly enacted legislation directing the State Board of Education to adopt a Basic Education Program for every local education agency in North Carolina, which included a mandate for the development of a Standard Course of Study for North Carolina Schools; and

Whereas, in the Social Studies component of the Standard Course of Study the curriculum is spelled out for each grade level and geography is an integral part of the K-8 curriculum, and while grades 4-8 are said to be geography based, grades K-3 and 8 have a strong geography component; and

Whereas, the basic high school social studies program must include the following courses: United States history, World history, cultures, economics, government, and geography; and

Whereas, the North Carolina public schools have a problem, in that a large percentage of the State's social studies teachers have not had formal courses in geography, the task of the State Department of Public Instruction and the university-based geographers is to provide for staff development sufficient to prepare teachers to teach the content outlined in the Teacher Handbook; and

1 Whereas, the professional geographer members of the North Carolina
2 Geographical Society have effected a significant new outreach effort to provide
3 professional advice and guidance to each of the eight regional social studies
4 coordinators through the North Carolina Geographical Alliance Network; and

5 Whereas, the National Geographic Society has awarded a ten thousand dollar
6 (\$10,000) seed money grant to the North Carolina Geographical Alliance headquartered
7 at East Carolina University for the purpose of supporting the North Carolina Alliance
8 Project for the first of three years; and

9 Whereas, the National Geographic Society intends to award a ten thousand
10 dollar (\$10,000) seed money grant for each of the second and third years of the North
11 Carolina Alliance Project; and

12 Whereas, the National Geographic Society in strong support of this initiative
13 has agreed to match with an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) the amount of
14 this appropriation; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to East Carolina
17 University the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1989-90 fiscal year to
18 establish and fund the North Carolina Geographic Alliance Network Program, to be
19 headquartered at East Carolina University, which will:

- 20 (a) Increase communication and cooperation between the professional
21 geographic community and the network of Regional Education
22 Centers,
23 (b) Increase the number of in-service workshops conducted by
24 professional geographers for the Regional Education Centers and local
25 education agencies,
26 (c) Increase the membership of professional geographers in the North
27 Carolina Council for Social Studies,
28 (d) Increase the number of professional geographers doing sessions at the
29 annual meetings of the North Carolina Council for Social Studies,
30 (e) Increase advisory interaction of professional geographers with the
31 North Carolina Board of Education with regard to geography in the
32 curriculum,
33 (f) Increase involvement of public school teachers with the North
34 Carolina Geographic Society.

35 Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.