

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 415

Short Title: Grassroots Science Museum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Brawley; Buchanan, Luebke, McMahan, Redwine, and Thompson.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 9, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GRASSROOTS SCIENCE MUSEUMS
3 PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES TO
4 IMPROVE STATE PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
5 EDUCATION.

Whereas, the North Carolina Museums Council has recommended active support for the resolution of the issue of State funding for museums, with the objective of an equitable process by which funding of operations and projects at creditable institutions may be solicited, apportioned, and accounted for; and

Whereas, serious concerns are being expressed at the national and State levels by scientists and educators about the nation's mathematics and science programs; and

Whereas, the State's science museums, recognized as being at the forefront in interpreting science to our citizenry and serving as an important resource for the education of students and teachers, share these concerns; and

Whereas, the State's science museums, (regional museums that further public understanding of science, the environment, and technology, and enhance science education in schools and communities throughout the State of North Carolina) in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, have developed

a program that would enable the science museums of the State to resolve some of these concerns; and

Whereas, A grassroots Science Museums Program would provide consistent support to science museums that would allow the support of the State science outreach program;

Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
3 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of one million two hundred
4 thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the 1995-96 fiscal year for the full funding of the
5 Grassroots Science Museum Program through the North Carolina State Museum of
6 Natural Sciences to serve local museums and science centers and enhance a State
7 outreach program in science and environmental education. The membership in the
8 Grassroots Science Museum Program will be determined and funds will be distributed by
9 a process developed by the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
10 with consultation with the Grassroots Science Museums which allocates fifty thousand
11 dollars (\$50,000) to each Grassroots Science Museum and an additional percentage based
12 on the operating budget of each museum.

13 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.