

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 811

Short Title: Cape Fear Freshwater Aquarium. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PLANNING AND
2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR RIVER FRESHWATER AQUARIUM.
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4 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Watershed is the largest river basin entirely
5 within the State of North Carolina, draining 29 counties or 23% of the State's land area,
6 containing approximately 27% of the State's population; and

7 Whereas, the Cape Fear River is a natural resource of vital economic
8 importance, providing water supply for residential and industrial uses; and

9 Whereas, the Cape Fear River is used for a variety of recreational activities
10 and for commercial and other waterborne transportation; and

11 Whereas, the Cape Fear River and its adjacent riparian area serve as a critical
12 fisheries and wildlife habitat; and

13 Whereas, there is a need to educate and inform others regarding the
14 significance of the Cape Fear River as a natural resource and the need for and benefits
15 of good stewardship; and

16 Whereas, there is a need for a freshwater aquarium facility for display of this
17 information regarding the Cape Fear River from its headwater tributaries, the Deep and
18 the Haw Rivers, including Jordan Lake, and down to the Cape Fear River Estuary; and

19 Whereas, the Fayetteville/Cumberland County area is centrally located within
20 the Cape Fear River Basin and is adjacent to Interstate 95; and

21 Whereas, there is a well-established historical connection between the Cape
22 Fear River and adjacent communities in this area; and

23 Whereas, this comparatively economically depressed area would benefit from
24 the location of this facility there; and

25 Whereas, there are educational institutions in this area which can make use of
26 this facility for environmental studies programs; and

27 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly is a nonprofit, basinwide
28 organization with representation from the upper, the middle, and the lower geographical
29 areas of the Cape Fear River Basin and from a variety of interests including industry,

1 local government, environmental and conservation organizations, academic institutions,
2 civic organizations, and local, State, and federal agencies; and

3 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly is currently administering a number
4 of environmental projects regarding the Cape Fear River; and

5 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly has appointed a Cape Fear River
6 Freshwater Aquarium Task Force and is designated as the receiving agency for funds
7 approved by the General Assembly for the Cape Fear River Freshwater Aquarium
8 project; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear
11 River Assembly, Inc., the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the
12 2003-2004 fiscal year for the planning and development of an aquarium facility in
13 Fayetteville.

14 **SECTION 2.** The Cape Fear River Assembly, Inc., shall report by October
15 1, 2003, and quarterly thereafter during the fiscal year to the Environmental Review
16 Commission and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the
17 use of the funds appropriated by this act.

18 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.