Short Title:	Wilson Science Museums Funds. (Public)
Sponsors:	Representatives Tolson and Farmer-Butterfield (Primary Sponsors).
Referred to:	Appropriations.

March 22, 2007

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2   AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUMS OF WILSON.
3   Whereas, humans are curious and want to explore their world; and
4   Whereas, the Imagination Station Science Museum serves 28 counties in
5   Eastern North Carolina with hands-on, inquiry-based science education programs to
6   foster the explorer in our students; and
7   Whereas, an interest in science, technology, and computer literacy is vital to
8   the next generation of our workforce; and
9   Whereas, because of Imagination Station Science Museum's efforts, the
10   students of Eastern North Carolina are exposed to unique and thought-provoking
11   science programs that serve as a foundation for these vital skills; and
12   Whereas, Imagination Station Science Museum suffered a tragic fire that
13   consumed the entire live animal collection, destroyed numerous exhibits, and negatively
14   impacted the museum financially; and
15   Whereas, strong community support has raised more than $1.2 million in
16   capital funds to remodel the prior vacant 1927 Federal Post Office building in
17   downtown Wilson and reopened Imagination Station Science Museum to the citizens of
18   Eastern North Carolina; and
19   Whereas, the museum has a direct economic impact on Wilson County of
20   approximately $1.5 million dollars annually; Now, therefore,
21   The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
22   **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Science
23   Museums of Wilson, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of five hundred thousand
24   dollars ($500,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to support the retirement of capital debt
25   incurred as a result of recovery from the catastrophic fire.
26   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.