

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 206

Sponsors: Representative Moffitt (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 5, 2013

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF UNITED STATES SENATOR
2 KEY PITTMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE ABSALOM WILLIS ROBERTSON, WHILE
3 COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDLIFE
4 AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS.

5 Whereas, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the
6 first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not
7 sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

8 Whereas, hunters, anglers, and trappers took it upon themselves to support laws that
9 stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect
10 fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help
11 fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for future generations;
12 and

13 Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives then and now recognize that
14 the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within their borders
15 resides in the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

16 Whereas, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and
17 sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers supported excise
18 taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing equipment
19 to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies;
20 and

21 Whereas, this user pay-public benefit system became known as the Wildlife and
22 Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in
23 Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, which was known as the Pittman-Robertson Act after its
24 principal sponsors, Senator Key Pittman of Nevada and Representative Absalom Willis
25 Robertson of Virginia; and

26 Whereas, the Pittman-Roberston Act was then bolstered with the passage of the
27 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 and further expanded with the
28 Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

29 Whereas, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
30 Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939 (the first year that
31 money was distributed to the states), more than any other single conservation effort in
32 American history, which constitutes, collectively, the American System of Conservation
33 Funding; and



1 Whereas, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing, and boating
2 equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment,
3 manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel
4 and distributed these funds to the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
5 and

6 Whereas, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing, and boating
7 equipment have supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and continue to
8 exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

9 Whereas, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers,
10 boaters, recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural
11 resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in
12 the world, restoring populations from coast to coast, in Alaska, and in Hawaii; Now, therefore,
13 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

14 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of United States
15 Senator Key Pittman of Nevada and Representative Absalom Willis Robertson of Virginia and
16 expresses its appreciation for the public service they rendered.

17 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives recognizes America's hunters, anglers,
18 trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the
19 United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of
20 fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to the abundance we see
21 today through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, in this the 75th anniversary
22 year of America's greatest conservation story, supported by the American System of
23 Conservation Funding.

24 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit certified copies of this resolution
25 to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and to North
26 Carolina's congressional delegation.

27 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.