#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

### **SESSION 1989**

H 1

#### HOUSE BILL 1396\*

Short Title: Robeson Farmers Market Funds.	(Public)
Sponsors: Representatives Hasty; DeVane and Locks.	
Referred to: Appropriations.	

## April 27, 1989

# A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ROBESON COUNTY FARMERS MARKET.

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Whereas, the Robeson County Farmers Market has operated successfully in Lumberton on an annual basis since 1980; and

Whereas, the market enjoyed the use of a shelter provided by a local business from 1980 to 1986, but has since been in three different locations and no longer has the use of a shelter; and

Whereas, the lack of a shelter creates considerable hardship for vendors, some of whom are elderly, and also results in a loss of quality in the produce sold; and

Whereas, the market allows small and part-time farmers, some of them on fixed incomes, to increase their income by the direct sale of their own produce; and

Whereas, the market allows farmers to experiment with vegetable crops on a limited basis with an assured market before deciding whether to expand their acreage, thus having assisted in the introduction of crops such as trellised tomatoes and broccoli in the area; and

Whereas, the market enjoys strong support in the community, which recognizes the value of a centralized source of fresh, locally-grown vegetables; and

Whereas, a stable, thriving farmers market which offers a diversity of produce throughout the growing season can be a legitimate tourist attraction; and

Whereas, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners has shown its support for the farmers market by purchasing a 2.5 acre site for the permanent location of the market; and

1	Whereas, attempts to establish a permanent market without requesting
2	substantial assistance from the State were unsuccessful, and the success of the project
3	hinges largely on State funding; and
4	Whereas, many counties across the State have received State funding to assist
5	in the construction of local farmers markets; Now, therefore,
6	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
7	Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8	Agriculture the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 1989-90 fiscal
9	year for a grant-in-aid to Robeson County for a farmers market.
10	Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.