

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 348

Short Title: Grassroots Science Museum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Easterling; Alexander, Arnold, Balmer, Barnhill, Berry, Black, Bowie, Brawley, Colton, Crawford, Cunningham, Dickson, Esposito, Fitch, Flaherty, Gist, H. Hunter, Ives, Jarrell, Jeffus, Joye, Kennedy, Kuczarski, Lemmond, Luebke, Mavretic, McAllister, McCombs, McLaughlin, Michaux, G. Miller, Nesbitt, Oldham, C. Preston, Robinson, Stamey, G. Thompson, R. Thompson, Wainwright, Warner, and C. Wilson.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 25, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GRASSROOTS SCIENCE PROGRAM
3 BY THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES TO IMPROVE STATE
4 PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION.

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

9 Whereas, the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council,
10 established by the General Assembly in 1981, has provided consistent support to arts
11 programs across the State; and

12 Whereas, the definition of "cultural purpose" in G.S. 105-278.3(d)(5) that the
13 Arts Council uses to establish eligibility for its funds does not include sciences; and

14 Whereas, science museums' educational programs have never been funded by
15 the Arts Council; and

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

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

4 Whereas, the State's nine metropolitan science museums, located in
5 Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, Wilson,
6 and Winston-Salem, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural
7 Sciences, have developed a program that would enable the science museums of the State
8 to resolve some of these concerns; and

9 Whereas, a Grassroots Science Program would provide consistent support to
10 science museums that would allow the development of a State science outreach program
11 that would, in time, be comparable to the State's program of support for the arts; Now,
12 therefore,

13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
15 Agriculture the sum of one million nine hundred seventy-seven thousand ninety-five
16 dollars (\$1,977,095) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million nine
17 hundred fifty-three thousand three hundred fourteen dollars (\$1,953,314) for the 1994-
18 95 fiscal year, for the development of a grassroots science program by the Museum of
19 Natural Sciences to serve local museums and nature centers.

20 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.