

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 801

Short Title: Cape Fear River Basin Research Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

April 12, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DATA COLLECTION, RESTORATION
EFFORTS, RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING THE CAPE
FEAR RIVER BASIN.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear River Assembly, Inc., the sum of one million one hundred sixty-two thousand dollars (\$1,162,000) for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the sum of one million one hundred sixty-two thousand dollars (\$1,162,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal year to conduct comprehensive investigations throughout the lower, middle, and upper portions of the Cape Fear River Basin to obtain critical information regarding water quality and biological and watershed characteristics not presently available. To this end, the funds appropriated by this section shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) \$190,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$190,000 for the 2000-2001 fiscal year shall be used to examine benthic communities basinwide to establish the spatial and temporal characteristics of these communities and the river conditions affecting these communities.
- (2) \$200,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$200,000 for the 2000-2001 fiscal year shall be used for continuous monitoring to establish

1 relationships between river flow (tides in the lower basin) and pollutant
2 loading throughout the Cape Fear River Basin.

3 (3) \$180,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$180,000 for the 2000-2001
4 fiscal year shall be used to examine the pattern and extent of metal
5 traces in the Cape Fear River Basin and to study the transport and
6 effects of these metals within the waterways of the Cape Fear River.

7 (4) \$48,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$48,000 for the 2000-2001
8 fiscal year shall be used to investigate the potential environmental and
9 health effects of pollution carried into the Atlantic by the fast-moving
10 Cape Fear River as it is washed back into nearby beach areas.

11 (5) \$225,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$225,000 for the 2000-2001
12 fiscal year shall be used to examine the various natural and
13 anthropogenic sources of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)
14 throughout the Cape Fear River Basin.

15 (6) \$244,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$244,000 for the 2000-2001
16 fiscal year shall be used to examine the cause and effect relationships
17 between water quality parameter variances and the types and
18 productivity of suspended algae in the Cape Fear River Basin.

19 (7) \$75,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$75,000 for the 2000-2001
20 fiscal year shall be used to conduct water quality monitoring beyond the
21 monitoring required of coalitions of dischargers, in order to characterize
22 nonpoint source impacts and natural conditions.

23 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear River
24 Assembly, Inc., the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000) for the
25 1999-2000 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
26 (\$325,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal year to develop an integrated, comprehensive plan
27 for restoration projects that can be funded in the future through other funding sources.
28 The funds appropriated by this section shall be allocated as follows:

29 (1) \$125,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$125,000 for the 2000-2001
30 fiscal year shall be used to develop enhanced land-use information for
31 the Cape Fear River Basin, to map riparian buffer areas as part of
32 restoration or protection efforts, and to enhance data available from
33 State agencies. These data shall be available to various groups and State
34 agencies interested in watershed management activities in the Cape Fear
35 River Basin.

36 (2) \$50,000 for each of the eight subbasins in the Cape Fear River Basin for
37 the 1999-2000 fiscal year, for a total of \$200,000, and \$50,000 for each
38 of these eight subbasins for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, for a total of
39 \$200,000, shall be used to target specific watersheds for restoration
40 efforts using available GIS information and additional available water
41 quality or biological data, to assess stream habitat and riparian areas,
42 and to classify stream channels.

1 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear River
2 Assembly, Inc., the sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) for
3 the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
4 (\$375,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal year to develop water quality modeling tools for
5 various portions of the Cape Fear River Basin, to include estuarine modeling for
6 assimilative capacity, mainstem modeling for nutrient and sediment transport and
7 assimilative capacity, water supply reservoir modeling for nutrient and sediment transport
8 and assimilative capacity, and watershed modeling for nutrients and sediment.

9 Section 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear River
10 Assembly, Inc., the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 1999-
11 2000 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the
12 2000-2001 fiscal year to be used to inform the public regarding watershed assessment
13 and management efforts in the Cape Fear River Basin and to develop methods through
14 which citizen groups can be involved in various monitoring and education activities. The
15 funds appropriated by this section shall be allocated as follows:

16 (1) \$100,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$100,000 for the 2000-2001
17 fiscal year shall be used to develop an information and education
18 program for youth and adult audiences throughout the Cape Fear River
19 Basin, to include quarterly conferences, monthly newsletters, and an
20 interactive web page.

21 (2) \$50,000 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and \$50,000 for the 2000-2001
22 fiscal year shall be used to provide organizational support for basinwide
23 monitoring and education activities and to support integration and
24 coordination of existing as well as future efforts.

25 Section 5. The Cape Fear River Assembly, Inc., may enter into contracts for
26 the data collection, restoration efforts, research, or public education regarding the Cape
27 Fear River Basin funded by this act.

28 Section 6. The Cape Fear River Assembly, Inc., shall report by October 1,
29 1999, and quarterly thereafter to the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint
30 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the use of any funds
31 appropriated under this act.

32 Section 7. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.