

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 841

Short Title: Prosperity Project. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Shubert, Weinstein, Ballantine, Rucho; Apodaca, Pittenger, and Purcell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
3 NORTH CAROLINA BY ACCELERATING THE COMPLETION OF AN
4 INTERSTATE QUALITY HIGHWAY ALONG THE GENERAL ROUTE OF U.S.
5 HIGHWAY 74 LINKING ASHEVILLE TO CHARLOTTE TO WILMINGTON.

6 Whereas, the State of North Carolina is determined to promote the use of the
7 Port of Wilmington and has devoted substantial funding to the improvement of the Port;
8 and

9 Whereas, access to the Port from a substantial part of the State is less than
10 adequate; and

11 Whereas, the military facilities in the Fayetteville area as well as the
12 businesses in that area would benefit from enhanced access to the Port of Wilmington;
13 and

14 Whereas, Asheville, Charlotte, and all the counties along the U.S. Highway
15 74 corridor would greatly benefit from access to the Port of Wilmington; and

16 Whereas, the tourist industry of North Carolina would benefit from providing
17 better roads between the major tourist destinations of Asheville, Charlotte, and
18 Wilmington; and

19 Whereas, highway planning by regions may overlook the synergies of
20 projects in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts; and

21 Whereas, construction of a four-lane limited access road from Asheville to
22 Wilmington through Charlotte has been proposed for years but not treated as a priority;

23 Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** The Board of Transportation is directed to add to the next
26 Transportation Improvement Program any construction projects necessary to complete
27 the "Prosperity Project" of a corridor linking Asheville, Charlotte, and Wilmington.

1 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Transportation is directed to accelerate the
2 planning, design, and construction of any projects necessary to complete the Prosperity
3 Project, a complete four-lane limited access roadway corridor linking Asheville,
4 Charlotte, and Wilmington.

5 **SECTION 3.** The equity formula in G.S. 136-17.2A shall not apply to the
6 Prosperity Project so that all construction projects on this corridor can be completed at
7 the earliest possible time.

8 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation shall report annually,
9 beginning in January 2004, to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee
10 on the progress in constructing the Prosperity Project and any other legislative
11 enactments needed to expedite the construction of the Prosperity Project.

12 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.