

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 616**

Short Title: Funds/Civil War & Reconstruction History Ctr. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Szoka, Bell, Lewis, and Lucas (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Appropriations, General Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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April 8, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION HISTORY CENTER.

Whereas, the American Civil War was the most cataclysmic and transformative episode in the history of the United States and in North Carolina; and

Whereas, the echoes of the events that occurred before, during, and after the War continue to reverberate today; and

Whereas, no state has presented a comprehensive view of the effect of those times on all of its peoples—until the creation of the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center (Center); and

Whereas, the Center will tell the stories of ordinary people, including women, children, African-Americans, both freed and enslaved, the elderly, yeoman farmers, Quaker pacifists, and pro-secessionists; and

Whereas, the Center will tell those stories through interactive exhibits created by experienced and tested exhibit designers within the 65,000 sq. ft. facility, with much of this content also available via the Internet; and

Whereas, the Center will work with and promote other Civil War and Reconstruction history sites throughout North Carolina; and

Whereas, the State's most recognized historians and scholars have worked to develop a balanced, fact-based accounting of the history that depicts the accurate record of slavery, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction era in North Carolina between 1835 and 1900; and

Whereas, the primary goal for the Center is for visitors and digital outreach users to come away with a more complete understanding of the era and a better knowledge of their relationship to their history; and

Whereas, the Center is developing a K-12 digital educational program that will be accessible to schoolrooms throughout the State and be a significant and necessary adjunct for educators who teach North Carolina history; and

Whereas, the Center's plans for its digital educational program have the endorsement of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, the digital educational program was successfully unveiled at a statewide conference of social studies teachers at its annual conference in March 2019; and

Whereas, the present site of the State's Museum of the Cape Fear is the home of the remains of the Fayetteville Arsenal, which was targeted by General William Sherman for destruction in the closing weeks of the War; and



1           Whereas, the General Assembly made a \$1 million appropriation in 2006-2007  
2 toward developing and completing the appropriate planning for protection of the historic site and  
3 the creation of a statewide history center on the Arsenal site; and

4           Whereas, since that time an additional \$23 million has been secured in cash and  
5 pledges, including \$7.5 million each from the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County,  
6 towards the \$80 million needed to complete construction of the Center and develop the statewide  
7 digital educational program; and

8           Whereas, the General Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million and a \$2.5 million  
9 challenge grant during the 2016-2017 fiscal year; and

10          Whereas, the Center will announce it has met this match next month, four months  
11 ahead of schedule; and

12          Whereas, the Center will become part of the North Carolina Museum of History  
13 System; Now, therefore,

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina  
16 Civil War & Reconstruction History Center Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of ten  
17 million dollars (\$10,000,000) in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of forty-five million  
18 dollars (\$45,000,000) in the 2020-2021 fiscal year in nonrecurring funds to complete the North  
19 Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center.

20           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.