

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS35183-LGa-74

Short Title: Tryon Palace Commission Modifications. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Sanderson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT MODIFYING THE LAWS RELATING TO THE POWERS, DUTIES, EMPLOYEES,  
3 AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TRYON PALACE COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING  
4 THE TRYON PALACE COMMISSION TO USE THIRD-PARTY ONLINE TICKET  
5 SALE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO PAY INITIAL THIRD-PARTY  
6 CONTRACTOR FEES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. G.S. 121-20 reads as rewritten:

9 "§ 121-20. **Commission to receive and expend funds donated or made available for**  
10 **restoration of Tryon's Palace; Commission to authorize third-party online ticket**  
11 **sale services; Commission to acquire and sell artifacts for Tryon's Palace.**

12 (a) In addition to exercising the powers and duties imposed upon the Tryon Palace  
13 Commission by Chapter 791 of the Session Laws of 1945 and Chapter 233 of the Session Laws  
14 of 1949, the Tryon Palace Commission is hereby fully authorized and empowered to receive and  
15 expend and disburse, for the restoration of ~~the said~~ Tryon's Palace, all ~~such~~ funds and property  
16 which were provided for ~~said~~ this purpose by the last will and testament of Maude Moore Latham,  
17 deceased, and the ~~said~~ Commission shall likewise have the power and authority to receive and  
18 expend all ~~such~~ other funds ~~funds~~, including, without limitation, funds in the Tryon Palace  
19 Historic Sites and Gardens Fund, as may be donated or made available for the purpose of  
20 ~~restoring the said Palace or for the purpose of furnishing and equipping same~~ restoring,  
21 furnishing, and equipping the Palace and the grounds on which the ~~same~~ Palace is located at New  
22 Bern, North Carolina.

23 The Tryon Palace Commission is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to designate  
24 some person as financial officer and treasurer, to disburse the funds and property devised by  
25 Maude Moore Latham to the ~~said~~ Tryon Palace Commission for the aforesaid purpose and all  
26 ~~such~~ other funds as may be donated or made available to the ~~said~~ Commission for expenditure  
27 for the aforesaid purposes. The ~~said~~ financial officer and treasurer shall be made the custodian of  
28 all stocks, bonds and securities and funds hereinbefore referred to and shall be authorized and  
29 empowered to sell, convert and transfer any stocks, bonds and securities held for ~~such~~ this  
30 purpose, subject to and with the advice and approval of a finance committee to be appointed by  
31 the Tryon Palace Commission for ~~such~~ this purpose. The sale and conversion and transfer of ~~said~~  
32 the securities shall be made when necessary to provide funds required for the ~~said~~ restoration and  
33 at ~~such~~ any time as, in the opinion of the finance officer and treasurer, when approved by the  
34 finance committee, will be to the interests and advantage of the Tryon Palace Commission and  
35 the purposes for which ~~said~~ the funds and securities were provided.



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1 The finance officer and treasurer aforesaid shall be required to give ~~such~~the bond as, in the  
 2 opinion of the Tryon Palace Commission, is proper for the faithful performance as finance officer  
 3 and treasurer, and shall render to the Tryon Palace Finance Committee, with copies to the  
 4 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the State Treasurer, annual or ad interim  
 5 detailed reports of moneys and/or securities received, exchanged or converted into cash. Checks  
 6 issued against ~~such~~the funds shall be countersigned by the ~~chairman~~chair of Tryon Palace  
 7 Commission, or by one duly authorized by the ~~said~~ Commission.

8 The finance officer and treasurer shall serve without compensation; however, any expenses  
 9 incurred for the faithful performance of ~~said~~the duties, including the cost of the bond, shall be  
 10 borne by the Tryon Palace Commission, from the proceeds of the funds thus handled.

11 The Tryon Palace Commission shall have the power and authority in its discretion to call  
 12 upon the Treasurer of the State of North Carolina to act as treasurer of the ~~said~~ funds and  
 13 properties and, if so designated, ~~said~~the treasurer shall exercise all the powers and duties herein  
 14 imposed upon the financial officer and treasurer hereinbefore referred to.

15 The Tryon Palace Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to expend the funds  
 16 hereinbefore referred to and it may disburse ~~said~~the funds through the Department of Natural  
 17 and Cultural Resources in the event it is found more practical to do so, and ~~said~~the Commission  
 18 shall cooperate with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources of the State of North  
 19 Carolina in the expenditure of the funds for the restoration of ~~said~~ Tryon's Palace provided by  
 20 two trust funds created by Maude Moore Latham in her lifetime, which funds shall be expended  
 21 in accordance with the terms and provisions of ~~said~~the trusts for the purposes therein set out.

22 (a) The Commission may authorize the use of third-party online ticket sale services for  
 23 the purchase of admission, special events, or other ticket sales offered for access to the Tryon  
 24 Palace complex or Tryon Palace-sponsored events. Funds realized as a result of third-party  
 25 online ticket sale services shall be credited to the Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens Fund.

26 ...."

27 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 121-21.1 reads as rewritten:

28 "**§ 121-21.1. Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens Fund.**

29 (a) Fund. – The Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens Fund is hereby created as a  
 30 special, interest-bearing, and nonreverting fund in the Division of Tryon Palace Historic Sites  
 31 and Gardens. The Fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and shall be credited with interest  
 32 by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3. The Fund shall be used for  
 33 repair, renovation, expansion, and maintenance at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens.

34 (b) Disposition of Fees. – All entrance fee ~~receipts~~and special event receipts and all  
 35 proceeds from the sale or other disposal of Tryon Palace complex real estate shall be credited to  
 36 the Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens Fund.

37 ...."

38 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143B-71 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 143B-71. Tryon Palace Commission – creation, powers, and duties.**

40 (a) There is hereby created the Tryon Palace Commission of the Department of Natural  
 41 and Cultural Resources with the power and duty to adopt, amend, and rescind rules and  
 42 regulations concerning the ~~restoration~~restoration, supervision, management, and maintenance of  
 43 the Tryon Palace ~~complex,~~complex, its real estate and collections, and with other powers and  
 44 duties as provided in Chapter 791 of the Session Laws of 1945, Chapter 233 of the Session Laws  
 45 of 1949, Part 7 of Article 2 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, and Article 2 of Chapter  
 46 121 of the General Statutes, including the authority to charge reasonable admission and related  
 47 activity fees. The Commission is exempt from the requirements of Chapter 150B of the General  
 48 Statutes and G.S. 12-3.1 when adopting, amending, or repealing rules for operating hours and  
 49 admission fees or related activity fees at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens.

50 (b) The Commission shall have all of the powers necessary to execute the provisions of  
 51 this Part, which shall include at least the following powers:

1           (1) To make contracts, adopt and use a common seal, employ consulting  
2           engineers, architects, attorneys, real estate counselors, appraisers, and other  
3           consultants and employees as may be required in the judgment of the  
4           Commission, and fix and pay their compensation from funds available to the  
5           Commission.

6           (2) To adopt, alter, or repeal its own bylaws or rules implementing the provisions  
7           of this Chapter.

8           (3) To receive and use appropriations from the State, including an appropriation  
9           from the proceeds of State general obligation bonds or notes.

10       (c) In executing the powers provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Commission  
11 through its chair or other designee shall communicate policy to the executive director or the  
12 executive director's designee, who shall have the duty and authority to execute the policy of the  
13 Commission. No member of the Commission shall have the responsibility or authority to give  
14 operational directives to any employee of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
15 except in accordance with this subsection."

16           **SECTION 4.** Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
17 section to read:

18 **"§ 143B-72.1. Tryon Palace Commission – employees; duties.**

19       The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is authorized to hire laborers, artisans,  
20 caretakers, stenographic and administrative employees, and other personnel, in accordance with  
21 the provisions of the North Carolina Human Resources Act, as may be necessary or directed by  
22 the Commission in carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Article. The Department of  
23 Natural and Cultural Resources shall maintain the Tryon Palace complex in a clean, neat, and  
24 attractive condition satisfactory for exhibition to the public. The Executive Director of the Tryon  
25 Palace Historic Sites and Gardens shall be selected by the Secretary of the Department of Natural  
26 and Cultural Resources from one or more candidates recruited and approved by the  
27 Commission."

28           **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
29 Natural and Cultural Resources the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be  
30 allocated to the Tryon Palace Commission to pay initial third-party ticket contractor fees and to  
31 promote the use of online ticket sales for access to the Tryon Palace complex or Tryon Palace–  
32 sponsored events.

33           **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.