

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 1598*

Short Title: Environmental Resource Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hackney.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 4, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE
2 PROJECT AT THE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL.
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5 Whereas, the General Assembly found it appropriate to allocate funds to the
6 University of North Carolina to create the Institute for Environmental Studies in 1973,
7 now administered by the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering in the
8 UNC School of Public Health; and

9 Whereas, the Institute for Environmental Studies was created to foster and
10 coordinate interdisciplinary research, teaching and service related to environmental
11 studies among the various units of the University and to work with agencies outside the
12 University on environmental issues; and

13 Whereas, the General Assembly has invested more than one million dollars
14 (\$1,000,000) in the Institute since its inception in 1973; and

15 Whereas, the Institute has expanded its research and service activities and in
16 1985 established a program called the Environmental Resource Project to help citizens
17 and local governments in North Carolina address environmental problems in their
18 communities; and

19 Whereas, the Environmental Resource Project has directly assisted 170
20 groups and has serviced approximately 150,000 individuals in more than 30 counties in
21 the last four years and continues to provide a very much needed service to the citizenry
22 of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 Section 1. The General Assembly finds that local public officials in North
2 Carolina's cities, counties and town are increasingly confronted with environmental
3 responsibilities involving scientific and technical questions they are ill-prepared to
4 address on issues such as hazardous waste, groundwater contamination, facility siting
5 proposals, underground storage tanks, solid waste, and information concerning
6 hazardous chemicals. Few local officials, nor their environmental advisory boards, have
7 either the training or even access to the professional staff capability to respond to such
8 issues.

9 Sec. 2. The General Assembly finds that the lack of technical assistance and
10 environmental education programs to local decision makers, to school teachers, and to
11 the public at large has created a resource-poor and uninformed citizenry in North
12 Carolina on environmental issues. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult for
13 waste management facilities to be sited and for environmentally responsible practices
14 and programs to be incorporated into local government operations and into our society
15 as a whole.

16 Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$160,000 to the Board
17 of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 1989-90 fiscal year and
18 \$180,000 for the 1990-91 fiscal year to provide staff and program support for the
19 Environmental Resource Project to continue its environmental education and technical
20 assistance programs offered to local officials and citizen leaders throughout North
21 Carolina.

22 Sec. 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.