

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

**H 1**

**HOUSE BILL 1969\***

Short Title: Historic Courthouse Funds.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Rogers; Anderson, Barbee, Chapin, Church, Colton, N. Crawford, Creech, B. Ethridge, Fletcher, Gardner, Greenwood, Hackney, Jack Hunt, H. Hunter, James, Lutz, Mills, Nesbitt, Perdue, Redwine, R. Thompson, Watkins, and Woodard.

---

Referred to: Appropriations.

---

May 11, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ASSIST IN THE RESTORATION OF  
2 NORTH CAROLINA'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSES.  
3

4 Whereas, North Carolina is fortunate to have an unusually large number of  
5 historic county courthouses still standing as the focal points of each county seat; and

6 Whereas, eighty-two of the State's historic county courthouses have been  
7 recognized as possessing architectural and historical significance and have been listed in  
8 the National Register of Historic Places; and

9 Whereas, twenty-eight of the State's historic courthouses are one hundred  
10 years old or older; and

11 Whereas, many of the State's oldest and most significant courthouses are now  
12 in need of extensive repair or major restoration; and

13 Whereas, many of these most significant courthouses will deteriorate beyond  
14 repair if restoration work is not begun in the near future; and

15 Whereas, restoration of North Carolina's historic courthouses will stimulate  
16 economic activity and tourism and will enhance the attractiveness of communities  
17 across the State; Now, therefore,

18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

19 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
20 Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, \$700,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal

1 year and \$500,000 for the 1990-91 fiscal year to establish a matching grants program to  
2 assist in the preservation and restoration of historic courthouses.

3 Sec. 2. (a) Grants shall be distributed according to grant criteria established by  
4 the Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. The grant  
5 criteria, however, shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

6 (1) A commitment in the proposal that the restored courthouse will be  
7 used as a resource to the community by private or public occupancy;

8 (2) That the restored courthouse will contribute to the economy of the  
9 county seat and to the economy of the county as a whole;

10 (3) That the county commissioners and its agencies endorse the proposal;

11 (4) That priority in approval be given to those courthouses in the greatest  
12 need of assistance;

13 (5) That grants may not be awarded for general maintenance.

14 (b) A maximum of one restoration grant per courthouse may be awarded each  
15 year.

16 (c) Each grant awarded shall be for no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the  
17 funds allocated each year of the biennium.

18 (d) All restoration grants to historic courthouses shall be contingent upon a  
19 dollar-for-dollar match by local funds on hand or value of restoration work completed to  
20 date. The same funds used to match another grant may not be used to match funds  
21 allocated from appropriations in Section 1 of this act.

22 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.