

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

S

1

SENATE BILL 376

Short Title: Grassroots Science Program Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Staton, Royall; Allran, Block, Bryan, Cobb, Ezzell, Harris, Hunt of Durham, Johnson of Wake, Kaplan, Marvin, Odom, Rauch, Raynor, Richardson, Swain, Tally, Ward, and Winner.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 9, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GRASSROOTS SCIENCE PROGRAM
BY THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES TO IMPROVE STATE
PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION.**

Whereas, the North Carolina Museums Council has recommended active support for the resolution of the issue of State funding for museums, with the objective of an equitable process by which funding support of operations and projects at creditable institutions may be solicited, apportioned, and accounted for; and

Whereas, the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council established by the General Assembly in 1981 has provided consistent support to arts programs across the State; and

Whereas, the definition of "cultural purpose" which the Arts Council uses to establish eligibility for its funds does not include sciences (G.S. 105-278.3(d)(5)), and science museums' educational programs have never been funded by the Arts Council; and

Whereas, serious concerns are being expressed at the national and State levels by scientists and educators about the nation's math and science programs; and

Whereas, the State's science museums, recognized as being at the forefront in interpreting science for our citizenry and serving as an important resource for the education of students and teachers, share these concerns; and

Whereas, the State's eight metropolitan science museums, located in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, and

1 Winston-Salem, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural
2 Sciences, have developed a program which would enable the science museums of the
3 State to resolve some of these concerns; and

4 Whereas, a Grassroots Science Program would provide consistent support to
5 science museums that would allow the development of a State science outreach program
6 which, in time, would be comparable to the State's program of support for the arts;
7 Now, therefore,

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
10 Agriculture the sum of one million eight hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$1,820,000)
11 for the 1989-90 fiscal year and the sum of one million nine hundred eighteen thousand
12 dollars (\$1,918,000) for the 1990-91 fiscal year for the development of a grassroots
13 science program by the Museum of Natural Sciences to serve local museums and nature
14 centers.

15 Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.