

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 704

Short Title: Geography-Based Curriculum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Warren; Plexico, Tally, and Sherron.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 18, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GEOGRAPHY-BASED CURRICULUM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Whereas, North Carolina is in an excellent position to implement rapidly a statewide geographic alliance network because the State Department of Public Instruction has eight regional offices staffed by professional educators to serve all parts of the State; and

Whereas, in June 1985, the General Assembly enacted legislation directing the State Board of Education to adopt a Basic Education Program for every local education agency in North Carolina, which included a mandate for the development of a Standard Course of Study for North Carolina Schools; and

Whereas, in the Social Studies component of the Standard Course of Study the curriculum is spelled out for each grade level and geography is an integral part of the K-8 curriculum, and while grades 4-8 are said to be geography based, grades K-3 and 8 have a strong geography component; and

Whereas, the basic high school social studies program must include the following courses: United States history, world history, cultures, economics, government, and geography; and

Whereas, the North Carolina public schools have a problem, in that a large percentage of the State's social studies teachers have not had formal courses in geography, the task of the State Department of Public Instruction and the university-based geographers is to provide for staff development sufficient to prepare teachers to teach the content outlined in the Teacher Handbook; and

1 Whereas, the professional geographer members of the North Carolina
2 Geographical Society have effected a significant new outreach effort to provide
3 professional advice and guidance to each of the eight regional social studies
4 coordinators through the North Carolina Geographical Alliance Network; and

5 Whereas, the National Geographic Society has awarded a ten thousand dollar
6 (\$10,000) seed money grant to the North Carolina Geographical Alliance headquartered
7 at East Carolina University for the purpose of supporting the North Carolina Alliance
8 Project for each of the first of three years of the Project; and

9 Whereas, the National Geographic Society intends to award a ten thousand
10 dollar (\$10,000) seed money grant each year for an additional three years of the North
11 Carolina Alliance Project; and

12 Whereas, the National Geographic Society in strong support of this initiative
13 has agreed to match with an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) the amount of
14 this appropriation; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
17 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of \$50,000 for the 1991-92
18 fiscal year to establish and fund the North Carolina Geographic Alliance Network
19 Program, which is headquartered at East Carolina University, and which will:

- 20 (1) Increase communication and cooperation between the professional
21 geographic community and the network of Regional Education
22 Centers,
- 23 (2) Increase the number of in-service workshops conducted by
24 professional geographers for the Regional Education Centers and local
25 education agencies,
- 26 (3) Increase the membership of professional geographers in the North
27 Carolina Council for Social Studies,
- 28 (4) Increase the number of professional geographers doing sessions at the
29 annual meetings of the North Carolina Council for Social Studies,
- 30 (5) Increase advisory interaction of professional geographers with the
31 North Carolina Board of Education with regard to geography in the
32 curriculum,
- 33 (6) Increase involvement of public school teachers with the North
34 Carolina Geographic Society.

35 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.