

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

S

1

SENATE BILL 631

Short Title: Enhance Highway Wildflower Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Allran, Winner, Dannelly, Albertson, Hoyle, Martin of Pitt, Webster, Hartsell, Cochrane, McDaniel, Foxx, and Forrester.

Referred to: Finance

April 11, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW TAXPAYERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HIGHWAY
2 WILDFLOWER FUND WHEN THEY FILE THEIR STATE INCOME TAX
3 RETURNS.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Article 9 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 105-269.7. Contribution to Highway Wildflower Account when individual**
9 **income tax return filed.**

10 An individual who files an income tax return under Division II of Article 4 of this
11 Chapter may elect to make a contribution to the Highway Wildflower Account
12 established under G.S. 20-79.7(3) to be used for the beautification of highways in this
13 State. The amount contributed will be deducted first from any refund due the taxpayer
14 pursuant to the return. Contributions in excess of any refund due the taxpayer must be
15 paid by the taxpayer with the return.

16 The Secretary shall provide appropriate language and space on the income tax form in
17 which to make the election. An election becomes irrevocable when the income tax return
18 is filed. The Secretary shall credit the contributions made pursuant to this section to the
19 Highway Wildflower Account on a quarterly basis."

- 1 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.7(c) reads as rewritten:
2 "(c) Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. –
3 (1) The Division shall deduct the costs of special registration plates,
4 including the costs of issuing, handling, and advertising the availability
5 of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate Account.
6 (2) From the funds remaining in the Special Registration Plate Account
7 after the deductions in accordance with subdivision (1) of this
8 subsection, there is appropriated from the Special Registration Plate
9 Account the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
10 (\$325,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred
11 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to
12 provide operating assistance for the Visitor and Welcome Centers:
13 a. On U.S. Highway 17 in Camden County, (\$75,000);
14 b. On U.S. Highway 17 in Brunswick County, (\$75,000);
15 c. On U.S. Highway 441 in Macon County, (\$75,000);
16 d. In the Town of Boone, Watauga County, (\$75,000); and
17 e. On U.S. Highway 29 in Caswell County, (\$25,000) for the 1993-
18 94 fiscal year and (\$75,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year.
19 (3) The Division shall transfer the remaining revenue in the Account
20 quarterly as follows:
21 a. Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of
22 Commerce to aid in financing out-of-state print and other media
23 advertising under the program for the promotion of travel and industrial
24 development in this State.
25 b. Fifty percent (50%) to the Highway Wildflower Account. The
26 Highway Wildflower Account is established within the Highway Fund
27 and is subject to the oversight of the State Auditor pursuant to Article
28 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes. The ~~the~~ Department of
29 Transportation ~~to be used~~ may use revenue in the Account solely for the
30 purpose of beautification of highways other than those designated as
31 interstate. ~~These funds shall be administered by the~~ The Department of
32 Transportation shall administer this account for beautification purposes
33 not inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
34 c. Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of
35 Human Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled
36 persons in this State. These funds shall be used to collect and
37 update site information on travel attractions designated by the
38 Department of Commerce in its publications, to provide technical
39 assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of
40 disabled tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the
41 publication ACCESS NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.
42 168-2. Any funds allocated for these purposes that are neither
43 spent nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be

1 transferred to the Department of Administration for removal of
2 ~~man-made-artificial~~ ('man-made') barriers to disabled travelers at
3 State-funded travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of
4 ~~man-made-artificial~~ barriers shall be developed in consultation
5 with the Department of Human Resources."

6 Sec. 3. This act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
7 1995.