

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 631
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 5/3/95

Short Title: Enhance Highway Wildflower Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 11, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE INCOME TAX REFUNDS
3 TO THE HIGHWAY WILDFLOWER FUND.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "**§ 105-269.7. Contribution of income tax refund to Highway Wildflower Account.**

8 An individual entitled to a refund of income taxes under Division II of Article 4 of
9 this Chapter may elect to contribute all or part of the refund to the Highway Wildflower
10 Account established under G.S. 20-79.7(3) to be used for the beautification of
11 highways in this State. The Secretary shall provide appropriate language and space on
12 the income tax form in which to make the election. An election becomes irrevocable
13 when the income tax return is filed. The Secretary shall credit the contributions made
14 pursuant to this section to the Highway Wildflower Account on a quarterly basis."

15 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.7(c) reads as rewritten:

16 "(c) Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. –

- 17 (1) The Division shall deduct the costs of special registration plates,
18 including the costs of issuing, handling, and advertising the availability
19 of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate Account.

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

1 Sec. 3. This act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
2 1995.