

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 879

Short Title: Transfer Ports Authority.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Perdue.

Referred to: Transportation

May 1, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS AUTHORITY AND THE NORTH CAROLINA PORTS RAILWAY COMMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO AMEND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE PORTS AUTHORITY BOARD TO BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The North Carolina State Ports Authority, as set forth in Part 10 of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, is transferred to the Department of Transportation in accordance with this act. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this transfer has all the elements of a Type II transfer as defined by G.S. 143A-6(b).

Sec. 2. Part 10 of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is recodified as Part 10 of Article 8 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, G.S. 143B-363.1 through G.S. 143B-363.16.

Sec. 3. The North Carolina Ports Railway Commission, as set forth in Part 11 of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, is transferred to the Department of Transportation in accordance with this act. This transfer has all the elements of a Type II transfer as defined by G.S. 143A-6(b).

1 Sec. 4. Part 11 of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is
2 recodified as Part 11 of Article 8 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, G.S. 143B-
3 364.1 through G.S. 143B-364.4.

4 Sec. 5. G.S. 143B-452, as recodified as G.S. 143B-363.1 by Section 2 of this
5 act, reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 143B-363.1. Creation of Authority – membership; appointment, terms and**
7 **vacancies; officers; meetings and quorum; compensation.**

8 The North Carolina State Ports Authority is hereby created. The North Carolina State
9 Ports Authority shall be located within the Department of Transportation, but the power
10 of the Authority to employ, direct, and supervise personnel shall be as provided in this
11 Part. It shall be governed by a board composed of nine members and hereby designated
12 as the Authority. Effective July 1, 1983, it shall be governed by a board composed of 11
13 members and hereby designated as the Authority. ~~The General Assembly suggests and~~
14 ~~recommends that no person be appointed to the Authority who is domiciled in the district of the~~
15 ~~North Carolina House of Representatives or the North Carolina Senate in which a State port is~~
16 ~~located.~~—The Governor shall appoint seven members to the Authority, and the General
17 Assembly shall appoint two members of the Authority. Effective July 1, 1983, the
18 Authority shall consist of seven persons appointed by the Governor, and four persons
19 appointed by the General Assembly. Effective July 1, 1989, the Governor shall appoint
20 six members to the Authority, in addition to the Secretary of ~~Commerce~~, Commerce or the
21 Secretary's designee, who shall serve as a voting member of the Authority by virtue of his
22 office. The Secretary of Commerce shall fill the first vacancy occurring after July 1,
23 1989, in a position on the Authority over which the Governor has appointive power.
24 Effective July 1, 1995, the Authority shall consist of 12 members with the addition of the
25 Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary's designee, who shall serve as a voting
26 member of the Authority by virtue of office.

27 The initial appointments by the Governor shall be made on or after March 8, 1977,
28 two terms to expire July 1, 1979; two terms to expire July 1, 1981; and three terms to
29 expire July 1, 1983. Thereafter, at the expiration of each stipulated term of office all
30 appointments made by the Governor shall be for a term of six years.

31 To stagger further the terms of members:

- 32 (1) Of the members appointed by the Governor to replace the members
33 whose terms expire on July 1, 1991, one member shall be appointed to a
34 term of five years, to expire on June 30, 1996; the other member shall
35 be appointed for a term of six years, to expire on June 30, 1997;
- 36 (2) Of the members appointed by the Governor to replace the members
37 whose terms expire on July 1, 1993, one member shall be appointed to a
38 term of five years, to expire on June 30, 1998; the other member shall
39 be appointed to a term of six years, to expire on June 30, 1999;
- 40 (3) Of those members appointed by the Governor to replace the members
41 whose terms expire on July 1, 1995, one member shall be appointed to a
42 term of five years, to expire on June 30, 2000; the other member shall
43 be appointed to a term of six years, to expire on June 30, 2001.

1 Thereafter, at the expiration of each stipulated term of office all appointments made
2 by the governor shall be for a term of six years.

3 The members of the Authority appointed by the Governor shall be selected from the
4 State-at-large and insofar as practicable shall represent each section of the State in all of
5 the business, agriculture, and industrial interests of the State.—State and shall reflect the
6 ethnic and gender diversity of the population of the State. Any vacancy occurring in the
7 membership of the Authority appointed by the Governor shall be filled by the Governor
8 for the unexpired term. The Governor may remove a member appointed by the Governor
9 only for reasons provided by G.S. 143B-13.

10 The General Assembly shall appoint two persons to serve terms expiring June 30,
11 1983. The General Assembly shall appoint four persons to serve terms beginning July 1,
12 1983, to serve until June 30, 1985, and successors shall serve for two-year terms. Of the
13 two appointments to be made in 1982, one shall be made upon the recommendation of the
14 Speaker, and one shall be made upon the recommendation of the President of the Senate.
15 Of the four appointments made in 1983 and biennially thereafter, two shall be made upon
16 the recommendation of the President of the Senate, and two shall be made upon the
17 recommendation of the Speaker. Effective July 1, 1995, the General Assembly shall
18 appoint four persons to serve as members of the Authority. Of the four appointments,
19 two shall be upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House and two shall be upon
20 the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, except that the
21 appointee of the President of the Senate serving on June 30, 1995, whose term expires on
22 June 30, 1996, shall continue to serve until June 30, 1996, and a successor shall be
23 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. To stagger further the terms of
24 members:

- 25 (1) Of the members appointed upon the recommendation of the Speaker to
26 replace the members whose terms expire on June 30, 1991, one member
27 shall be appointed to a term of one year, to expire on June 30, 1992; the
28 other member shall be appointed to a term of two years, to expire on
29 June 30, 1993;
- 30 (2) ~~Of the members appointed upon the recommendation of the President of~~
31 ~~the Senate to replace the members whose terms expire on June 30, 1991,~~
32 ~~one member shall be appointed to a term of one year, to expire on June~~
33 ~~30, 1992; the other member shall be appointed to a term of two years, to~~
34 ~~expire on June 30, 1993. The member appointed by the President Pro~~
35 ~~Tempore of the Senate effective July 1, 1995, shall be appointed to a~~
36 ~~term of two years, to expire on June 30, 1997. The member appointed~~
37 ~~by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate effective July 1, 1996, shall~~
38 ~~serve for a term of two years, to expire on June 30, 1998.~~

39 Thereafter, at the expiration of each stipulated term of office all appointments made
40 by the General Assembly shall be for terms of two years.

41 Appointments by the General Assembly shall be made in accordance with G.S. 120-
42 121, and vacancies in those appointments shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122.

1 Members appointed by the General Assembly may be removed only for reasons provided
2 by G.S. 143B-13.

3 The Governor shall appoint from the members of the Authority the chairman and
4 vice-chairman of the Authority. The members of the Authority shall appoint a treasurer
5 and secretary of the Authority.

6 The Authority shall meet once in each 60 days at such regular meeting time as the
7 Authority by rule may provide and at any place within the State as the Authority may
8 provide, and shall also meet upon the call of its chairman or a majority of its members. A
9 majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The
10 members of the Authority shall not be entitled to compensation for their services, but
11 they shall receive per diem and necessary travel and subsistence expense in accordance
12 with G.S. 138-5."

13 Sec. 6. G.S. 143B-453, as recodified as G.S. 143B-363.2 by Section 2 of this
14 act, reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 143B-363.2. Purposes of Authority.**

16 Through the Authority hereinbefore created, the State of North Carolina may engage
17 in promoting, developing, constructing, equipping, maintaining and operating the harbors
18 and seaports within the State, or within the jurisdiction of the State, and works of internal
19 improvements incident thereto, including the acquisition or construction, maintenance
20 and operation at such seaports or harbors of watercraft and highways and bridges thereon
21 or essential for the proper operation thereof. Said Authority is created as an
22 instrumentality of the State of North Carolina for the accomplishment of the following
23 general purposes:

- 24 (1) To develop and improve the harbors or seaports at Wilmington,
25 Morehead City and Southport, North Carolina, and such other places,
26 including inland ports and facilities, as may be deemed feasible for a
27 more expeditious and efficient handling of waterborne commerce from
28 and to any place or places in the State of North Carolina and other states
29 and foreign countries.
- 30 (2) To acquire, construct, equip, maintain, develop and improve the port
31 facilities at said ports and to improve such portions of the waterways
32 thereat as are within the jurisdiction of the federal government.
- 33 (3) To foster and stimulate the shipment of freight and commerce through
34 said ports, whether originating within or without the State of North
35 Carolina, including the investigation and handling of matters pertaining
36 to all transportation rates and rate structures affecting the same.
- 37 (4) To cooperate with the United States of America and any agency,
38 department, corporation or instrumentality thereof in the maintenance,
39 development, improvement and use of said harbors and seaports in
40 connection with and in furtherance of the war operations and needs of
41 the United States.
- 42 (5) To accept funds from any of said counties or cities wherein said ports
43 are located and to use the same in such manner, within the purposes of

1 said Authority, as shall be stipulated by the said county or city, and to
2 act as agent or instrumentality, of any of said counties or cities in any
3 matter coming within the general purposes of said Authority.

4 (6) To act as agent for the United States of America, or any agency,
5 department, corporation or instrumentality thereof, in any matter
6 coming within the purposes or powers of the Authority.

7 (7) And in general to do and perform any act or function which may tend or
8 be useful toward the development and improvement of harbors, seaports
9 and inland ports of the State of North Carolina, and to increase the
10 movement of waterborne commerce, foreign and domestic, to, through,
11 and from such harbors and ports.

12 The enumeration of the above purposes shall not limit or circumscribe the broad
13 objective of developing to the utmost the port possibilities of the State of North Carolina.

14 The Authority shall develop a long-range, 10-year capital plan which identifies its
15 total capital needs, available resources, and external funding requirements. The plan
16 shall analyze the competitive position of the Authority relative to ports in other states and
17 shall establish strategic objectives. The plan shall identify capital investments and
18 highway, rail, and navigation channel improvements needed to achieve the strategic
19 objectives established. The Authority shall include within the plan a program that will
20 reflect a good faith effort in the recruitment and selection of minority businesses for
21 participation in contracts for goods or services necessary to carry out the purposes of this
22 section. The plan shall be submitted to the Board of Transportation for approval on or
23 before April 1, 1996, and shall thereafter be reviewed, updated, and submitted to the
24 Board of Transportation on or before January 1 of each year. The Department of
25 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources shall provide information on navigation
26 channels and on potential navigation improvements to the State Ports Authority and to
27 the Department of Transportation, and shall provide other assistance as needed in
28 developing the long-range capital plan for the Authority. The Department of
29 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources shall review the plan as approved by the
30 Board of Transportation when the Department develops the annual Water Resources
31 Development Plan required by G.S. 143-215.73A, and shall set priorities for navigation
32 improvement projects consistent with the approved plan for the Authority."

33 Sec. 7. G.S. 143B-454, as recodified as G.S 143B-363.3 by Section 2 of this
34 act, reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 143B-363.3. Powers of Authority.**

36 (a) In order to enable it to carry out the purposes of this Part, the said Authority shall:

37 (1) Have the powers of a body corporate, including the power to sue and be
38 sued, to make contracts, and to adopt and use a common seal and to
39 alter the same as may be deemed expedient;

40 (2) Have the authority to make all necessary contracts and arrangements
41 with other port authorities of this and other states for the interchange of
42 business, and for such other purposes as will facilitate and increase the
43 business of the North Carolina State Ports Authority;

- 1 (3) Be authorized and empowered to rent, lease, buy, own, acquire,
2 mortgage, otherwise encumber, and dispose of such property, real or
3 person, as said Authority may deem proper to carry out the purposes and
4 provisions of this Part, all or any of them;
- 5 (4) Be authorized and empowered to acquire, construct, maintain, equip and
6 operate any wharves, docks, piers, quays, elevators, compresses,
7 refrigeration storage plants, warehouses and other structures, and any
8 and all facilities needful for the convenient use of the same in the aid of
9 commerce, including the dredging of approaches thereto, and the
10 construction of beltline roads and highways and bridges and causeways
11 thereon, and other bridges and causeways necessary or useful in
12 connection therewith, and shipyards, shipping facilities, and
13 transportation facilities incident thereto and useful or convenient for the
14 use thereof, excluding terminal railroads. Prior approval of the Board of
15 Transportation shall be required for all capital improvement projects,
16 equipment purchases, and facility maintenance projects requiring the
17 expenditure of funds in excess of five hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$500,000). Requests for appropriations from the General Fund shall be
19 approved by the Board of Transportation and submitted to the Governor
20 through the Department of Transportation;
- 21 (5) The Authority shall appoint an Executive Director, whose salary shall
22 be fixed by the Authority, to serve at its pleasure. The Executive
23 Director or his designee shall appoint, employ, dismiss and, within the
24 limits of available funding, fix the compensation of such other
25 employees as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Part.
26 There shall be an executive committee consisting of the chairman of the
27 Authority and two other members elected annually by the Authority.
28 The executive committee shall be vested with authority to do all acts
29 which are authorized by the bylaws of the Authority. Members of the
30 executive committee shall serve until their successors are elected;
- 31 (6) Establish an office for the transaction of its business at such place or
32 places as, in the opinion of the Authority, shall be advisable or
33 necessary in carrying out the purposes of this Part;
- 34 (7) Be authorized and empowered to create and operate such agencies and
35 departments as said board may deem necessary or useful for the
36 furtherance of any of the purposes of this Part;
- 37 (8) Be authorized and empowered to pay all necessary costs and expenses
38 involved in and incident to the formation and organization of said
39 Authority, and incident to the administration and operation thereof, and
40 to pay all other costs and expenses reasonably necessary or expedient in
41 carrying out and accomplishing the purposes of this Part;
- 42 (9) Be authorized and empowered to apply for and accept loans and grants
43 of money from any federal agency or the State of North Carolina or any

1 political subdivision thereof or from any public or private sources
2 available for any and all of the purposes authorized in this Article, and
3 to expend the same in accordance with the directions and requirements
4 attached thereto, or imposed thereon by any such federal agency, the
5 State of North Carolina, or any political subdivision thereof, or any
6 public or private lender or donor, and to give such evidences of
7 indebtedness as shall be required, provided, however, that no
8 indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the Authority shall
9 constitute an indebtedness of the State of North Carolina, or any
10 political subdivision thereof, and no such indebtedness shall involve or
11 be secured by the faith, credit or taxing power of the State of North
12 Carolina, or any political subdivision thereof;

13 (10) Be authorized and empowered to act as agent for the United States of
14 America, or any agency, department, corporation, or instrumentality
15 thereof, in any matter coming within the purposes or powers of the
16 Authority;

17 (11) Have power to adopt, alter or repeal its own bylaws, rules and
18 regulations governing the manner in which its business may be
19 transacted and in which the power granted to it may be enjoyed, and
20 may provide for the appointment of such committees, and the functions
21 thereof, as the Authority may deem necessary or expedient in
22 facilitating its business;

23 (12) Be authorized and empowered to do any and all other acts and things in
24 this Part authorized or required to be done, whether or not included in
25 the general powers in this section mentioned; and

26 (13) Be authorized and empowered to do any and all things necessary to
27 accomplish the purposes of this Part: Provided, that said Authority shall
28 not engage in shipbuilding.

29 The property of the Authority shall not be subject to any taxes or assessments thereon.

30 Prior to taking any action under this subsection, the Authority may consult with the
31 Advisory Budget Commission.

32 (b) In order to execute the powers enumerated in subsection (a), the Authority
33 shall determine the policies of the North Carolina State Ports Authority by majority vote
34 of all members of the Authority present and voting. Once a policy is determined, the
35 Authority shall communicate it to the Executive Director, who shall have the sole and
36 exclusive authority to execute the policy of the Authority. No member of the Authority
37 shall have responsibility or authority to give operational directives to any employee of the
38 North Carolina State Ports Authority other than the Executive Director.

39 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Authority shall submit
40 its annual operating budget and plan to the Board of Transportation on or before May 15
41 of each year.

1 (d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any appropriations for capital
2 projects of the State Ports Authority made after July 1, 1995, shall not come from the
3 Highway Fund."

4 Sec. 8. G.S. 143B-455, as recodified as G.S. 143B-363.4 by Section 2 of this
5 act, reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 143B-363.4. Approval of acquisition and disposition of real property.**

7 Any transactions relating to the acquisition or disposition of real property or any
8 estate or interest in real property, by the North Carolina State Ports Authority, shall be
9 subject to prior review by the Governor and Council of State, and shall become effective
10 only after the same has been approved by the Governor and Council of State. Upon the
11 acquisition of real property or other estate therein, by the North Carolina State Ports
12 Authority, the fee title or other estate shall vest in and the instrument of conveyance shall
13 name the 'North Carolina State Ports Authority' as grantee, lessee, or transferee. Upon
14 the disposition of real property or any interest or estate therein, the instrument of
15 conveyance or transfer shall be executed by the North Carolina State Ports Authority.
16 The approval of any transaction by the Governor and Council of State may be evidenced
17 by a duly certified copy of excerpt of minutes of the meeting of the Governor and
18 Council of State, attested by the private secretary to the Governor or the Governor,
19 reciting such approval, affixed to the instrument of acquisition or transfer, and said
20 certificate may be recorded as a part thereof, and the same shall be conclusive evidence
21 of review and approval of the subject transaction by the Governor and Council of State.
22 The Governor, acting with the approval of the Council of State, may delegate the review
23 and approval of such classes of lease, rental, easement, or right-of-way transactions as he
24 deems advisable, and he may likewise delegate the review and approval of the severance
25 of buildings and timber from the land.

26 In addition to the above requirements, any acquisition or disposition of any interest in
27 real property of a fair market value of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or more
28 shall require the prior approval of the Board of Transportation."

29 Sec. 9. G.S. 143B-456(b), as recodified as G.S. 143B-363.6(b) by Section 2 of
30 this act, reads as rewritten:

31 "(b) Prior to the sale and delivery of any bonds or notes by the Authority, the
32 Governor and the Board of Transportation shall approve the general purposes of and the
33 general security provisions for any such bonds or notes. Such bonds or notes may be sold
34 in such manner, either at public or private sale, and for such price as the Authority shall
35 determine. Bonds or notes may be issued under the provisions of this Part without
36 obtaining, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Part, the consent of any
37 department, division, commission, board, body, bureau or agency of the State, and
38 without any other proceedings or the happening of any conditions or things other than
39 those proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by this Part and
40 the provisions of the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or notes or the
41 trust agreement securing the same. Prior to taking any action under this subsection, the
42 Governor may consult with the Advisory Budget Commission."

43 Sec. 10. G.S. 143B-431(a) reads as rewritten:

1 "(a) The functions of the Department of Commerce, except as otherwise expressly
2 provided by Article 1 of this Chapter or by the Constitution of North Carolina, shall
3 include:

4 (1) All of the executive functions of the State in relation to economic
5 development including by way of enumeration and not of limitation, the
6 expansion and recruitment of environmentally sound industry, labor
7 force development, the promotion of and assistance in the orderly
8 development of North Carolina counties and communities, the
9 promotion and growth of the travel and tourism industries, the
10 development of our State's ports, energy resource management and
11 energy policy development;

12 (2) All functions, powers, duties and obligations heretofore vested in an
13 agency enumerated in Article 15 of Chapter 143A, to wit:

- 14 a. The State Board of Alcoholic Control,
15 b. The North Carolina Utilities Commission,
16 c. The Employment Security Commission,
17 d. The North Carolina Industrial Commission,
18 e. State Banking Commission and the Commissioner of Banks,
19 f. Savings and Loan Association Division,
20 g. The State Savings Institutions Commission,
21 h. Credit Union Commission,
22 i. The North Carolina Milk Commission,
23 j. The North Carolina Mutual Burial Association Commission,
24 k. The North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority,
25 l. ~~The North Carolina State Ports Authority,~~

26 all of which enumerated agencies are hereby expressly transferred by a
27 Type II transfer, as defined by G.S. 143A-6, to this recreated and
28 reconstituted Department of Commerce; and,

29 (3) All other functions, powers, duties and obligations as are conferred by
30 this Chapter, delegated or assigned by the Governor and conferred by
31 the Constitution and laws of this State. Any agency transferred to the
32 Department of Commerce by a Type II transfer, as defined by G.S.
33 143A-6, shall have the authority to employ, direct and supervise
34 professional and technical personnel, and such agencies shall not be
35 accountable to the Secretary of Commerce in their exercise of quasi-
36 judicial powers authorized by statute, notwithstanding any other
37 provisions of this Chapter, ~~provided that the authority of the North Carolina~~
38 ~~State Ports Authority to employ, direct and supervise personnel shall be as~~
39 ~~provided in Part 10 of this Article. Chapter."~~

40 Sec. 11. G.S. 143B-433(a) reads as rewritten:

- 41 "(a) (1) The North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission,
42 (2) The North Carolina Utilities Commission,
43 (3) The Employment Security Commission,

- 1 (4) The North Carolina Industrial Commission,
- 2 (5) State Banking Commission,
- 3 (6) Savings and Loan Association Division,
- 4 (7) The State Savings Institutions Commission,
- 5 (8) Credit Union Commission,
- 6 (9) The North Carolina Milk Commission,
- 7 (10) The North Carolina Mutual Burial Association Commission,
- 8 (11) North Carolina Cemetery Commission,
- 9 (12) The North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority,
- 10 (13) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 757, s. 179(d),
- 11 (14) North Carolina Science and Technology Research Center,
- 12 ~~(15) The North Carolina State Ports Authority,~~
- 13 (16) North Carolina National Park, Parkway and Forests Development
- 14 Council,
- 15 (17) Economic Development Board,
- 16 (18) Labor Force Development Council,
- 17 (19) Energy Policy Council,
- 18 (20) Energy Division,
- 19 (21) Navigation and Pilotage Commissions established by Chapter 76 of the
- 20 General Statutes.
- 21 (22) Repealed by Session Laws 1993, c. 321, s. 313(b)."

22 Sec. 12. G.S. 143B-346 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 143B-346. Department of Transportation – purpose and functions.**

24 The general purpose of the Department of Transportation is to provide for the
25 necessary planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of an integrated statewide
26 transportation system for the economical and safe transportation of people and goods as
27 provided for by law. The Department shall also provide and maintain an accurate register
28 of transportation vehicles as provided by statutes, and the Department shall enforce the
29 laws of this State relating to transportation safety assigned to the Department. The
30 Department of Transportation shall be responsible for all of the transportation functions
31 of the executive branch of the State as provided by law except those functions delegated
32 to the Utilities Commission, ~~the State Ports Authority, Commission~~ and the Commissioners
33 of Navigation and Pilotage as provided for by Chapter 76. The major transportation
34 functions include aeronautics, highways, mass transportation, motor vehicles, State ports,
35 and transportation safety as provided for by State law. The Department of Transportation
36 shall succeed to all functions vested in the Board of Transportation and the Department of
37 Motor Vehicles on July 1, 1977."

38 Sec. 13. G.S. 143B-350 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

39 "(i) In addition to the above duties and powers, the Board of Transportation shall
40 have the following duties and powers in regard to the State Ports Authority:

- 41 (1) To approve all capital improvement projects, equipment purchases, and
- 42 facility maintenance projects requiring the expenditure of funds in
- 43 excess of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000);

1 (2) To review and approve the annual operating budget and plan which the
2 State Ports Authority shall submit on or before May 15 of each year."

3 Sec. 14. The Office of State Personnel shall undertake a comprehensive
4 review of the personnel policies and procedures of the North Carolina State Ports
5 Authority and the salaries, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment with
6 the Ports Authority, and shall determine whether it would be beneficial to include the
7 employees of the Ports Authority under the State Personnel Act. Upon request of the
8 Office of State Personnel, all other State departments and agencies shall furnish to the
9 Office of State Personnel any information in their possession or available to them. The
10 Office of State Personnel shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations
11 to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore
12 of the Senate, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, and the
13 Legislative Library by April 1, 1996.

14 Sec. 15. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.