

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE BILL 1772

Short Title: Compensate Swain for Lost Property Taxes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Haire.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

May 31, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ONETIME COMPENSATION TO SWAIN COUNTY FOR
3 ITS LOSS OF AD VALOREM TAXES THAT DIRECTLY RESULTS FROM THE
4 2004 ACQUISITION OF SWAIN COUNTY PROPERTY BY THE STATE TO BE
5 USED AS STATE GAME LANDS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION.

6 Whereas, Swain County is designated as a Tier One Enterprise County under
7 G.S. 105-129.3, based on a combination of its high unemployment, low average per
8 capita income, and percentage growth; and

9 Whereas, The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cherokee Indian
10 Reservation, Nantahala National Forest, and the Tennessee Valley Authority are wholly
11 or partly located in Swain County; and

12 Whereas, approximately 87% of the land in Swain County is publicly owned;
13 and

14 Whereas, in 2004, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, the
15 Wildlife Resources Commission acquired approximately 3,431 acres in Swain County,
16 the Needmore property located on the Little Tennessee River; and

17 Whereas, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will manage
18 this property as State game lands for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation
19 activities; and

20 Whereas, as a result of this acquisition, Swain County will lose annual ad
21 valorem taxes of \$15,097; Now, therefore,

22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.** The Board of Trustees of the Clean Water Management Trust
24 Fund may provide a onetime grant of up to thirty-five thousand seven hundred six
25 dollars (\$35,706) to Swain County for the 2004-2005 fiscal year as compensation to the
26 County for the loss of ad valorem taxes associated with the fee simple purchase by the
27 Wildlife Resources Commission of the 3,431-acre Needmore game lands property
28 located on the Little Tennessee River in Swain County, which grant shall be used to
29 provide public services to the residents of Swain County.

1 **SECTION 2.** The Ecosystem Enhancement Program within the Department
2 of Environment and Natural Resources may provide a onetime grant of up to forty
3 thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars (\$40,264) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year as
4 compensation to the County for the loss of ad valorem taxes associated with the fee
5 simple purchase by the Wildlife Resources Commission of the 3,431-acre Needmore
6 game lands property located on the Little Tennessee River in Swain County, which
7 grant shall be used to provide public services to the residents of Swain County.

8 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.