

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE DRH80388-LG-202A (03/22)

Short Title: Maritime Area Heritage Tourism Officer Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Preston, Culpepper, and Underhill (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A HERITAGE TOURISM
2 DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR CARTERET, HYDE, DARE, AND PAMLICO
3 COUNTIES.
4

5 Whereas, the maritime communities of Carteret, Hyde, Dare, and Pamlico
6 Counties are rich in culture, history, and natural resources; and

7 Whereas, the National Park Service identified the communities surrounding
8 Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras National Seashores as important gateway communities
9 serving an integral role in the preservation and conservation of the region's cultural and
10 natural heritage; and

11 Whereas, the North Carolina Outer Banks Scenic Byway is projected to
12 become the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway in 2005, bringing with it important
13 opportunities for the area; and

14 Whereas, the revival of the Ocracoke Coast Guard Station as the North
15 Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching-East allows teachers to explore
16 coastal culture through firsthand learning experience in the maritime communities; and

17 Whereas, other projects nearing completion in 2005 include Visitor Centers at
18 ferry landings on Ocracoke and Cedar Islands; openings of the Cape Lookout
19 Lighthouse and Ocracoke Lighthouse, and new exhibits at Portsmouth Village, Harkers
20 Island Visitor Center, the Cape Lookout Light Keepers' Quarters; and

21 Whereas, a heritage tourism development officer is needed to lead the
22 development of sustainable heritage tourism products and target marketing that will
23 both increase the visitation to the Down East area and generate additional small
24 business and economic development opportunities for local residents using maritime
25 traditions; Now, therefore,

26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated to the Department of Commerce the sum
2 of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of fifty
3 thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year for a Heritage Tourism
4 Development Officer position to preserve and promote the maritime traditions, cultural
5 history, and natural resources that connect Carteret, Hyde, Dare, and Pamlico Counties.

6 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.