

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

S

1

SENATE BILL 2050

Short Title: DOT to Plant Tree Seedlings in Rights-of-Way.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Albertson.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PLANTING OF
2 SEEDLING TREES IN THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

3
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation
6 up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year, for five years, beginning with the
7 2008-2009 fiscal year, shall be used to develop and implement a plan to plant trees and
8 shrubs native to North Carolina along the State's roads and highways in the
9 rights-of-way. The Department shall consult with and use the expertise of the United
10 States Forest Service and the Division of Forest Resources of the North Carolina
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the development and
12 implementation of the plan. The plan shall include the planting of trees, shrubs, and
13 other vegetation that (i) are native to the various regions and areas of the State in which
14 they are being planted, (ii) will provide clean air and otherwise benefit the State's
15 environment, (iii) are appropriately placed for the safety of those traveling on the roads
16 and highways, and (iv) reduce the costs of mowing and maintaining the rights-of-way
17 along the State's roads and highways.

18 The Department shall procure the seedlings from the North Carolina Division
19 of Forest Resources or any State institution that cultivates seedling trees. If the seedlings
20 are cultivated from within the State, the Department shall revegetate the cleared area
21 with the same tree, shrub, or other vegetation harvested within the first planting season
22 after the area is cleared. If no State agency cultivates seedling trees, then the
23 Department shall procure seedlings grown in North Carolina. The Department shall, to
24 the fullest extent possible, use inmates of the Department of Correction to plant and
25 maintain the trees. The Department shall submit the plan to the Joint Legislative
26 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Transportation
27 Oversight Committee by October 1, 2008, and begin implementation of the plan by
28 January 1, 2009.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.