

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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HOUSE BILL 15

Short Title: Fort Fisher State Historic Site/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Davis.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

January 28, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND
3 CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR PROJECTS AT THE FORT FISHER STATE HISTORIC
4 SITE.

5 Whereas, the Fort Fisher State Historic Site is the most visited State Historic Site; and
6 Whereas, many of Fort Fisher's visitors are school groups from New Hanover County;
7 groups from summer camp programs, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Junior
8 ROTC; nursing homes; military groups; families; and other tourists; and

9 Whereas, to accommodate the visitors at Fort Fisher, funds are needed to build a new
10 visitor center, which will provide additional space for exhibits, a larger auditorium to handle
11 several school groups at once, a multipurpose space for classrooms, storage facilities for archives,
12 and rental space for additional income; and

13 Whereas, funds are also needed to expand Fort Fisher's earthworks exhibit, upgrade
14 its parking lot, and build a new maintenance facility; and

15 Whereas, additional funds are needed to plan facilities for the Underwater
16 Archaeology Branch to be located on the grounds of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site to preserve
17 the State's maritime history; and

18 Whereas, funding for the last installment of eight million dollars for the 2019-2021
19 fiscal year was included in the State's budget for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium; however, the
20 State's budget was vetoed, the funds were not received by the Department of Natural and Cultural
21 Resources, Office of Archives and History, and the projects could not proceed; and

22 Whereas, because of the delay, the cost of various capital projects at the Fort Fisher
23 State Historic Site has increased; Now, therefore,
24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
26 Natural and Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, the sum of nine million five
27 hundred thousand dollars (\$9,500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to
28 complete various capital projects at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

29 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
30 Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources, Office of State Archaeology,
31 the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022
32 fiscal year to plan facilities for the Underwater Archaeology Branch to be located on the grounds
33 of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

34 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

