

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 927
May 11, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40589-MHa-148

Short Title: Funds for WNC Outdoor Organizations. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Moffitt.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS LAND CONSERVATION AND
3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PURPOSES IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **INVESTMENTS TO SUSTAIN VITAL PROGRAMS**

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Agriculture and Consumer Services the sum of four million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars
9 (\$4,750,000) in recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated for the following:

- 10 (1) \$4,000,000 for the Agriculture Cost Share Program established by
11 G.S. 106-850.
12 (2) \$500,000 for the Community Conservation Assistance Program created
13 pursuant to Article 73 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes.
14 (3) \$250,000 to the North Carolina Forest Service for field work, collaborative
15 development, and infrastructure to support hemlock restoration programs.

16 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
17 Environmental Quality the sum of five hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$570,000) in recurring
18 funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated to the following:

- 19 (1) \$370,000 for the continuation of four positions supporting the landslide
20 mapping program.
21 (2) \$200,000 for the restart of the Waste Detection Elimination (WaDE) program,
22 which identifies and remediates groundwater contamination caused by leaking
23 septic tanks.

24 **SECTION 1.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
25 Natural and Cultural Resources the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in recurring funds
26 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated to the Land and Water Fund to be used for
27 conservation easements for protection of open spaces, viewsheds, and water quality in Western
28 North Carolina. For purposes of this subsection, "Western North Carolina" refers to Cleveland,
29 Burke, Caldwell, Wilkes, and Alleghany Counties and all counties of the State located to the west
30 of those counties.

31 **INVESTMENTS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION**

32 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Parks and
33 Recreation Trust Fund established in G.S. 143B-135.56 the sum of eight hundred twenty-five
34 thousand dollars (\$825,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated
35 for the following projects:
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- 1 (1) \$150,000 to Watauga County for the Watauga River Paddle Trail in Watauga
2 County.
- 3 (2) \$200,000 to the Town of Bryson City for implementation of the existing river
4 park plan developed by the Tuckasegee River Alliance in the area between
5 and including Island Park and downtown Bryson City.
- 6 (3) \$125,000 to the Town of Andrews to provide funding for development of a
7 new public access point for paddlers and paddle trail signage on the Valley
8 River in Cherokee County.
- 9 (4) \$150,000 to the City of Shelby for development of a public fishing and boating
10 access site on the First Broad River.
- 11 (5) \$200,000 to Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development for the
12 development of a river access point and related stream restoration activities
13 for the Creekwalk in the Town of Bakersville.

14 Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-135.56, no match shall be required for the projects
15 funded in this subsection.

16 **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Land and Water
17 Fund established in Part 41 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes the sum of one hundred
18 thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to provide a
19 grant to Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development as matching funds for the removal
20 of the Ward's Mill Dam on the Watauga River in Watauga County.

21 **SECTION 2.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Wildlife
22 Resources Commission the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in nonrecurring
23 funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for improvements in public access to recreational areas on
24 the Green River Game Lands in Henderson County. The Commission shall consult with the
25 Green River Access Fund to implement the public access improvements.

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