

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 232**

Short Title: Funds/Short-Line Railroad Disaster Assistance. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Pless and Clampitt (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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

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February 27, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF  
SHORT-LINE RAILROADS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** The State Controller shall transfer the sum of sixteen million three hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred seventy-six dollars (\$16,392,176) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year from funds available in the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Reserve to the Department of Transportation's Rail Division (Division) for the Freight Rail & Rail Safety Improvement Fund (Rail Fund) established by G.S. 124-5.1, and those funds are appropriated from the Rail Fund for the purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

**SECTION 1.(b)** The Division shall use the funds transferred and appropriated pursuant to this section to provide grants for recovery and repair of the following short-line railroads damaged by Hurricane Helene:

- (1) Fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) to the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, LLC, for line restoration.
- (2) Two million three hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred seventy-six dollars (\$2,392,176) for track rehabilitation, facility repairs, and revenue loss to the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, LLC.

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.

