

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 1193

Short Title: Year 2000 Emergency Appropriation.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Plyler, Perdue, Odom; and Purcell.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 20, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION, ON THE REQUEST OF
THE GOVERNOR, TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE YEAR 2000 CONVERSION
IN ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Whereas, many existing computer systems will not operate properly at the turn of the century; and

Whereas, this problem, which is known as the "Year 2000 Problem" is estimated to cost between three hundred and six hundred billion dollars on a national basis; and

Whereas, the cost for the federal government alone is estimated at four billion dollars; and

Whereas, in State government agencies, 755 out of 1347 existing applications will not operate properly with a year 2000 date; and

Whereas, major State computer systems such as the tax entry system, the Food Stamp Program system, the Work First and Medicaid systems, the salary administration system at a major State agency, and the student admissions system at a State university, will not operate properly with a year 2000 date; and

1 Whereas, State assets other than computers including elevators, security
2 systems, traffic lights, and HVAC systems, will not operate properly at the turn of the
3 century; and

4 Whereas, because of the scope of the problem in both the public and the
5 private sector, there is a shortage of programmers able to solve the State Year 2000
6 problem; and

7 Whereas, the Executive Budget Act authorizes the General Assembly to make
8 an emergency appropriation to the Program for the 1997-98 fiscal year upon the request
9 of the Governor; and

10 Whereas, the Governor has made such a request in a letter to the President Pro
11 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

12 Whereas, an emergency appropriation would allow for uninterrupted year 2000
13 conversion for State agencies; and

14 Whereas, an emergency appropriation would avoid price increases that may
15 occur should vendor availability diminish due to delays in contracting; and

16 Whereas, an emergency appropriation would allow State agencies to meet the
17 conversion deadlines in order to begin testing in the 1999 calendar year; and

18 Whereas, an emergency appropriation would provide for continued conversion
19 activity by all vendors currently under contract and would enable State agencies to avoid
20 time delays associated with new vendors; Now, therefore,
21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Commerce, Year 2000 Reserve Fund, the sum of thirteen million six hundred forty-six
24 thousand nine hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$13,646,997) for the 1997-98 fiscal year to
25 cover the costs of the year 2000 conversion in General Fund agencies during the 1997-99
26 fiscal biennium.

27 Section 2. (a) From funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for the
28 1997-98 fiscal year the sum of thirteen million seven hundred thousand dollars
29 (\$13,700,000) shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce, Year 2000 Reserve
30 Fund, to cover the costs of the year 2000 conversion in Highway Fund agencies during
31 the 1997-99 fiscal biennium. If funds are not available for this purpose, the Director of
32 the Budget shall advance funds from the General Fund to cover any required
33 expenditures until highway funds are available.

34 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to offset the impact on the Highway
35 Fund of the appropriation contained in subsection (a) of this section; therefore, there shall
36 be no transfers from the Highway Fund to the General Fund in accordance with G.S. 105-
37 164.44D for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

38 Section 3. The State Information Processing System may transfer up to
39 fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal year from its receipts for
40 testing and data processing service charges to the Department of Commerce, Year 2000
41 Reserve Fund, to cover the costs of the year 2000 conversion.

1 Section 4. The Director of the Budget may transfer funds from federal receipts
2 and other agency receipts for the 1998-99 fiscal year to the Department of Commerce,
3 Year 2000 Reserve Fund, to cover the costs of the year 2000 conversion.

4 Section 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.