

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 721

Short Title: Cape Fear River Freshwater Aquarium. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Warner, Hurley, and Lucas.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 22, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PLANNING AND
3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR RIVER FRESHWATER AQUARIUM.

4 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Watershed is the largest river basin entirely
5 within the State of North Carolina, draining 29 counties or twenty-two percent (22%) of
6 the State's land area, containing approximately twenty-seven percent (27%) of the
7 State's population; and

8 Whereas, the Cape Fear River is a natural resource of vital economic
9 importance, providing water supply for residential and industrial uses; and

10 Whereas, the Cape Fear River is used for a variety of recreational activities
11 and for commercial and other waterborne transportation; and

12 Whereas, the Cape Fear River and its adjacent riparian area serve as a critical
13 fisheries and wildlife habitat; and

14 Whereas, there is a need to educate and inform others regarding the
15 significance of the Cape Fear River as a natural resource and the need for and benefits
16 of good stewardship; and

17 Whereas, there is a need for a freshwater aquarium facility for display of this
18 information regarding the Cape Fear River from its headwater tributaries, the Deep and
19 the Haw Rivers, including Jordan Lake, and down to the Cape Fear River Estuary; and

20 Whereas, the Fayetteville/Cumberland County area is centrally located within
21 the Cape Fear River Basin and is adjacent to Interstate 95; and

22 Whereas, there is a well-established historical connection between the Cape
23 Fear River and adjacent communities in this area; and

24 Whereas, this comparatively economically depressed area would benefit from
25 the location of this facility there; and

26 Whereas, there are educational institutions in this area which can make use of
27 this facility for environmental studies programs; and

1 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly is a nonprofit, basinwide
2 organization with representation from the upper, the middle, and the lower geographical
3 areas of the Cape Fear River Basin, and from a variety of interests including industry,
4 local government, environmental and conservation organizations, academic institutions,
5 civic organizations, and local, State, and federal agencies; and

6 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly is currently administering a number
7 of environmental projects regarding the Cape Fear River; and

8 Whereas, the Cape Fear River Assembly has appointed a Cape Fear River
9 Freshwater Aquarium Task Force and is designated as the receiving agency for funds
10 approved by the General Assembly for the Cape Fear River Freshwater Aquarium
11 project; Now, therefore,

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cape Fear
14 River Assembly, Inc., the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the
15 2001-2002 fiscal year for the planning and development of an aquarium facility in
16 Fayetteville.

17 **SECTION 2.** The Cape Fear River Assembly, Inc., shall report by October
18 1, 2001, and quarterly thereafter during the fiscal year to the Environmental Review
19 Commission and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the
20 use of the funds appropriated by this act.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.