

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1961 SESSION

CHAPTER 1091
HOUSE BILL 181

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
2 JAMES K. POLK BIRTHPLACE.

3
4 WHEREAS, James K. Polk, a native son of North Carolina and the eleventh
5 President of the United States, rose to National greatness and true statesmanship in his services
6 to the Nation, including the acquisition for the United States of the western third of the Nation,
7 comprising the present great states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming,
8 Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and parts of Montana and Colorado, as well as indirectly
9 influencing the annexation of the State of Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, the site of the birthplace and early home of President Polk in
11 Mecklenburg County is available for purchase and should be acquired and developed as one of
12 North Carolina's most important historic shrines; and

13 WHEREAS, the General Assembly of 1955 appropriated seven thousand five
14 hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) for this purpose, but this amount has proved insufficient to
15 purchase the necessary property; and

16 WHEREAS, through the generosity of Mr. Smith Richardson, the Richardson
17 Foundation of New York City and Greensboro, North Carolina, has made a Challenge Grant of
18 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to assist in the acquisition and restoration of the birthplace, but
19 under the terms of grant has stipulated that the State Department of Archives and History shall
20 take steps to provide the necessary visitor center museum and other facilities to complete the
21 project, estimated to cost thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000); and

22 WHEREAS, it is expected that from local and other donations a total of twenty-five
23 thousand dollars (\$25,000) will be raised to augment the Richardson Funds and thereby insure
24 the purchase and restoration of the birthplace: Now, therefore,

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26 The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

27
28 **Section 1.** An appropriation of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the
29 general fund is hereby made to the State Department of Archives and History for the following
30 purposes at the James K. Polk Birthplace in Mecklenburg County: Construction of a museum
31 visitor center and a caretaker's residence.

32 **Sec. 2.** All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

33 **Sec. 3.** This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 1961.

34 In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 21st day of June,
35 1961.