

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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**HOUSE BILL 1433\***

Short Title: Grassroots Science Museum Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Easterling; Abernethy, Balmer, Barnhill, Black, Bowie, Colton, N.J. Crawford, Cunningham, Esposito, Fitch, Foster, Gist, Gray, Greenwood, Grimmer, Sam Hunt, Isenhower, Jarrell, Jeffus, Kennedy, Lewis, Lineberry, Luebke, McGee, McLaughlin, Mavretic, Michaux, Miller, Nesbitt, Oldham, and Rhodes.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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June 1, 1992

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A GRASSROOTS SCIENCE PROGRAM  
BY THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES TO IMPROVE STATE  
PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION.**

Whereas, the North Carolina Museums Council has recommended active support for the resolution of the issue of State funding for museums, with the objective of an equitable process by which funding of operations and projects at creditable institutions may be solicited, apportioned, and accounted for; and

Whereas, the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, established by the General Assembly in 1981, has provided consistent support to arts programs across the State; and

Whereas, the definition of "cultural purpose" in G.S. 105-278.3(d)(5) that the Arts Council uses to establish eligibility for its funds does not include sciences; and

Whereas, science museums' educational programs have never been funded by the Arts Council; and

Whereas, serious concerns are being expressed at the national and State levels by scientists and educators about the nation's mathematics and science programs; and

Whereas, the State's science museums, recognized as being at the forefront in interpreting science to our citizenry and serving as an important resource for the education of students and teachers, share these concerns; and

1           Whereas, the State's eight metropolitan science museums, located in  
2 Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, and  
3 Winston-Salem, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural  
4 Sciences, have developed a program that would enable the science museums of the State  
5 to resolve some of these concerns; and

6           Whereas, a Grassroots Science Program would provide consistent support to  
7 science museums that would allow the development of a State science outreach program  
8 that would, in time, be comparable to the State's program of support for the arts; Now  
9 therefore,

10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
12 Agriculture the sum of one million nine hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$1,918,000)  
13 for the 1992-93 fiscal year for the development of a grassroots science program by the  
14 Museum of Natural Sciences to serve local museums and nature centers.

15           Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992.