

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

Whereas, the State's 10 metropolitan science museums, located in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Rocky Mount, Wilson, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem, which are regional museums that further public understanding of science, the environment, and technology, and enhance science education in schools and communities throughout the State of North Carolina, in cooperation with the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, have developed a program that would enable the science museums of the State to resolve some of these concerns; and

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

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
3 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of one million nine hundred
4 seventy-seven thousand ninety-five dollars (\$1,977,095) for the 1995-96 fiscal year and
5 the sum of one million nine hundred fifty-three thousand three hundred fourteen dollars
6 (\$1,953,314) for the 1996-97 fiscal year for the full funding of the Grassroots Science
7 Museum Program through the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences to serve
8 local museums and science centers and enhance a State outreach program in science and
9 environmental education. The membership in the Grassroots Science Museum Program
10 shall be determined and funds shall be distributed by a process developed by the
11 Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources with consultation with the
12 Grassroots Science Museums which allocates fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to each
13 Grassroots Science Museum and an additional percentage based on the operating budget
14 of each museum.

15 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.