

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE BILL 549\***

Short Title: Science Museums of Wilson Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Tolson.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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March 10, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUMS OF WILSON.

Whereas, humans are curious and want to explore their world; and

Whereas, the Imagination Station Science Museum serves 28 counties in Eastern North Carolina with hands-on, inquiry-based science education programs to foster the explorer in our students; and

Whereas, an interest in science, technology, and computer literacy is vital to the next generation of our workforce; and

Whereas, because of Imagination Station Science Museum's efforts, the students of Eastern North Carolina are exposed to unique and thought-provoking science programs that serve as a foundation for these vital skills; and

Whereas, Imagination Station Science Museum suffered a tragic fire that consumed the entire live animal collection, destroyed numerous exhibits, and negatively impacted the museum financially; and

Whereas, strong community support has raised more than \$1.2 million in capital funds to remodel the prior vacant 1927 Federal Post Office building in downtown Wilson and reopened Imagination Station Science Museum to the citizens of Eastern North Carolina; and

Whereas, the museum has a direct economic impact on Wilson County of approximately \$1.5 million dollars annually; Now, therefore,  
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Science Museums of Wilson, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to upgrade the technology of the Imagination Station Science Museum's outreach program, renovate the third floor that was destroyed by fire, and develop, renovate, and fabricate exhibits for the main exhibit hall.

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.