

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 988

Short Title: CSS Neuse Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Braxton, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors); Bell, Brisson, Coates, Dickson, Harrison, McLawhorn, and Underhill.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 26, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE CSS
3 NEUSE, A CIVIL WAR-ERA IRONCLAD GUNBOAT.

4 Whereas, the CSS Neuse is one of only three surviving Civil War gunboats in
5 the world, but is currently housed under a temporary shelter that provides minimal
6 protection from the elements; and

7 Whereas, the CSS Neuse was dug from the river bottom over 40 years ago,
8 has been constantly exposed to an outdoor environment in the time since its excavation,
9 and is considered by experts to have a remaining life span of only seven years in its
10 current setting; and

11 Whereas, the CSS Neuse is North Carolina's largest historical artifact, is
12 listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a designated project of Save
13 America's Historical Treasures; Now, therefore,
14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
16 Department of Cultural Resources the sum of one million seven hundred fifty thousand
17 dollars (\$1,750,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of one million seven
18 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for the
19 relocation and housing of the CSS Neuse, a Civil War-era ironclad gunboat, to a climate
20 controlled facility that will also house a Civil War museum. These funds shall be used
21 to provide a safe environment for the preservation of the CSS Neuse and other Civil
22 War artifacts in a museum setting. The city of Kinston, Lenoir County, and the
23 Department of Cultural Resources have already invested seven hundred fifty thousand
24 dollars (\$750,000) toward this endeavor.

25 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.