GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1267*

Short Title:	Short-Line RR Matching Grant Funds.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Boseman.	
Referred to:	Appropriations/Base Budget.	

March 26, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SHORT-LINE RAILROAD MATCHING GRANTS.

Whereas, North Carolina's short-line railroads play a key role in the State's economic development and transportation service; and

Whereas, North Carolina's short-line railroads are needed to provide essential services to other modes of transportation and the North Carolina port system; and

Whereas, each $1 million in grant money for short-line railroads is known to reduce the cost per train car load significantly; and

Whereas, North Carolina freight service is dependent upon the short-line component of the delivery system; and

Whereas, North Carolina agriculture is dependent upon essential service by short-line railroads; and

Whereas, North Carolina economic development and commerce is dependent upon essential service by short-line railroads; and

Whereas, matching grant requests to improve tracks and to maintain and upgrade short-line railroads exceeded $8.2 million in 2006; and

Whereas, State funds are needed to maintain short-line railroads as a viable component of the State's freight delivery system and as a contributor to economic development, agriculture, and transportation in this State; and

Whereas, such funding for matching grants is essential in order to prevent the loss of regional rail service; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Transportation the sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to use as matching grants for short-line railroads.

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