

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL DRH30263-LGa-103A

Short Title: Funds/Civil War & Reconstruction History Ctr. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Szoka, Bell, Lewis, and Lucas (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION HISTORY CENTER.

4 Whereas, the American Civil War was the most cataclysmic and transformative
5 episode in the history of the United States and in North Carolina; and

6 Whereas, the echoes of the events that occurred before, during, and after the War
7 continue to reverberate today; and

8 Whereas, no state has presented a comprehensive view of the effect of those times on
9 all of its peoples—until the creation of the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History
10 Center (Center); and

11 Whereas, the Center will tell the stories of ordinary people, including women,
12 children, African-Americans, both freed and enslaved, the elderly, yeoman farmers, Quaker
13 pacifists, and pro-secessionists; and

14 Whereas, the Center will tell those stories through interactive exhibits created by
15 experienced and tested exhibit designers within the 65,000 sq. ft. facility, with much of this
16 content also available via the Internet; and

17 Whereas, the Center will work with and promote other Civil War and Reconstruction
18 history sites throughout North Carolina; and

19 Whereas, the State's most recognized historians and scholars have worked to develop
20 a balanced, fact-based accounting of the history that depicts the accurate record of slavery, the
21 Civil War, and the Reconstruction era in North Carolina between 1835 and 1900; and

22 Whereas, the primary goal for the Center is for visitors and digital outreach users to
23 come away with a more complete understanding of the era and a better knowledge of their
24 relationship to their history; and

25 Whereas, the Center is developing a K-12 digital educational program that will be
26 accessible to schoolrooms throughout the State and be a significant and necessary adjunct for
27 educators who teach North Carolina history; and

28 Whereas, the Center's plans for its digital educational program have the endorsement
29 of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education; and

30 Whereas, the digital educational program was successfully unveiled at a statewide
31 conference of social studies teachers at its annual conference in March 2019; and

32 Whereas, the present site of the State's Museum of the Cape Fear is the home of the
33 remains of the Fayetteville Arsenal, which was targeted by General William Sherman for
34 destruction in the closing weeks of the War; and



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1 Whereas, the General Assembly made a \$1 million appropriation in 2006-2007
2 toward developing and completing the appropriate planning for protection of the historic site and
3 the creation of a statewide history center on the Arsenal site; and

4 Whereas, since that time an additional \$23 million has been secured in cash and
5 pledges, including \$7.5 million each from the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County,
6 towards the \$80 million needed to complete construction of the Center and develop the statewide
7 digital educational program; and

8 Whereas, the General Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million and a \$2.5 million
9 challenge grant during the 2016-2017 fiscal year; and

10 Whereas, the Center will announce it has met this match next month, four months
11 ahead of schedule; and

12 Whereas, the Center will become part of the North Carolina Museum of History
13 System; Now, therefore,

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
16 Civil War & Reconstruction History Center Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of ten
17 million dollars (\$10,000,000) in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of forty-five million
18 dollars (\$45,000,000) in the 2020-2021 fiscal year in nonrecurring funds to complete the North
19 Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center.

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.