

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 129*

Short Title: Transportation Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Martin of Pitt; Hoyle and Cochrane.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 2, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO INCREASE FUNDING TO THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE
4 PROGRAM.

Whereas, the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging finds that an increasing portion of North Carolina's population is living to an older age and requires an increasing amount of services and assistance; and

Whereas, North Carolina is facing an age wave with the 85+ population group growing fastest and placing the greatest demands on our long-term care system; and

Whereas, the number of frail older adults living in the community is increasing and is projected to be 78,000 in 1996 increasing to 104,000 by 2010; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that the elderly desire to maintain as much independence and dignity as possible and prefer to remain in the home and community whenever practicable; and

Whereas, due to insufficient funding there are 9,000+ older adults waiting for services to help them stay at home and avoid institutionalization; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that one of the most frequent problems affecting the elderly has been inadequate or lack of transportation services; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that in urban areas the elderly generally live in residential locations that are poorly serviced by public transit, and in rural areas, the

elderly are sometimes so isolated that they cannot access public transit and cannot get to a telephone to request transportation; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that health care needs, as well as other needs and desires, sometimes remain unmet because of unavailable transportation to providers; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that North Carolina can best be served by increasing the level of funding to the North Carolina Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program; 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 Transportation the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 1995-96 fiscal year
4 and the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 1996-97 fiscal year to provide
5 funds for the North Carolina Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program.

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