

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 631

Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 5/3/95

Third Edition Engrossed 6/28/95

House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/18/95

Short Title: Enhance Highway Wildflower Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 11, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE INCOME TAX REFUNDS TO THE HIGHWAY WILDFLOWER FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 9 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 105-269.7. Contribution of income tax refund to Highway Wildflower Account.**

An individual entitled to a refund of income taxes under Division II of Article 4 of this Chapter may elect to contribute all or part of the refund to the Highway Wildflower Account established under G.S. 20-79.7(c)(3) to be used for the beautification of highways in this State. The Secretary shall provide appropriate language and space on the income tax form in which to make the election. An election becomes irrevocable when the income tax return is filed. The Secretary shall credit the contributions made pursuant to this section to the Highway Wildflower Account on a quarterly basis."

Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.7(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. –

- 1           (1) The Division shall deduct the costs of special registration plates,  
2 including the costs of issuing, handling, and advertising the availability  
3 of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate Account.
- 4           (2) From the funds remaining in the Special Registration Plate Account  
5 after the deductions in accordance with subdivision (1) of this  
6 subsection, there is appropriated from the Special Registration Plate  
7 Account the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars  
8 (\$325,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred  
9 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to  
10 provide operating assistance for the Visitor and Welcome Centers:
- 11           a. On U.S. Highway 17 in Camden County, (\$75,000);  
12           b. On U.S. Highway 17 in Brunswick County, (\$75,000);  
13           c. On U.S. Highway 441 in Macon County, (\$75,000);  
14           d. In the Town of Boone, Watauga County, (\$75,000); and  
15           e. On U.S. Highway 29 in Caswell County, (\$25,000) for the 1993-  
16             94 fiscal year and (\$75,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year.
- 17           (3) The Division shall transfer the remaining revenue in the Account  
18 quarterly as follows:
- 19           a. Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of  
20 Commerce to aid in financing out-of-state print and other media  
21 advertising under the program for the promotion of travel and industrial  
22 development in this State.
- 23           b. Fifty percent (50%) to the Highway Wildflower Account. The  
24 Highway Wildflower Account is established within the Highway Fund.  
25 The ~~the~~ Department of Transportation ~~to be used~~ may use revenue in the  
26 Account solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than  
27 those designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the  
28 highways. The Department of Transportation shall administer this  
29 account for beautification purposes not inconsistent with good  
30 landscaping and engineering principles.
- 31           c. Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of  
32 Human Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled  
33 persons in this State. These funds shall be used to collect and  
34 update site information on travel attractions designated by the  
35 Department of Commerce in its publications, to provide technical  
36 assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of  
37 disabled tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the  
38 publication ACCESS NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.  
39 168-2. Any funds allocated for these purposes that are neither  
40 spent nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be  
41 transferred to the Department of Administration for removal of  
42 ~~man-made~~ artificial ('man-made') barriers to disabled travelers at  
43 State-funded travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of

1                           ~~man-made~~ artificial barriers shall be developed in consultation  
2                           with the Department of Human Resources."

3                   Sec. 3. The sum of twenty-eight thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars  
4 (\$28,694) for the 1995-96 fiscal year is transferred from the Highway Wildflower  
5 Account established in G.S. 20-79.7(c)(3) to the Department of Revenue for  
6 programming and start-up costs to implement the provisions of this act authorizing  
7 contributions to the Highway Wildflower Account.

8                   Sec. 4. Revenue that is in the Special Registration Plate Account and is  
9 allocated for highway beautification is transferred to the Highway Wildflower Account  
10 established in G.S. 20-79.7(c)(3).

11                   Sec. 5. Section 1 of this act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after  
12 January 1, 1995. The remaining sections of this act are effective upon ratification.