

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 245

Short Title: William Penn School Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Jarrell, Boyd-McIntyre; Adams, Alexander, Barefoot, Bowie, Cunningham, Dedmon, Earle, Hill, Insko, Jeffus, McCrary, Mosley, Nye, Oldham, Smith, Wainwright, Wood, and Wright.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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March 4, 1999

1    A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC  
3 WILLIAM PENN HIGH SCHOOL AND AUDITORIUM FOR USE AS AN  
4 EDUCATION CENTER.

Whereas, the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute was founded by Quakers and the members of High Point's African-American community in 1891; and

Whereas, during the 1930s, the school became a public high school and renamed for the famous Quaker leader, William Penn; and

Whereas, for many years, it was the only school that offered African-Americans an education; and

Whereas, alumni of the school include: Carl Chavis, World War II hero and Purple Heart recipient; John Coltrane, jazz musician; Sammie Chess, North Carolina's first African-American Superior Court Judge; and Bob Brown, Advisor on Minority Affairs to former President Richard Nixon; and

Whereas, the William Penn High School is a preeminent African-American historic landmark and warrants restoration; Now, therefore,

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to The William Penn  
2 Foundation, Incorporated, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
3 dollars (\$250,000) for the 1999-2000 fiscal year to provide the corporation with a portion  
4 of the funds needed to restore the William Penn High School and Auditorium. In  
5 addition to providing educational opportunities to the citizens of High Point and serving  
6 as a cultural tourist attraction, the restored school and auditorium may serve as:

7           (1)    A facility for graduation ceremonies for Guilford Technical Community  
8                    College.

9           (2)    A day care center and extended educational programming facility for  
10                   area YMCAs.

11          (3)    A computer lab for the High Point Public Library.

12          (4)    An auditorium for an area middle school.

13          (5)    A facility for civic and art events.

14          Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.