

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 2130

Short Title: Topsail Beach/Beach Renourishment Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Justice; B. Allen and Wilkins.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 18, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO MATCH LOCAL FUNDS
3 COMMITTED BY TOPSAIL BEACH TO BE USED FOR A CRITICAL BEACH
4 RENOURISHMENT PROJECT AT TOPSAIL BEACH.
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6 Whereas, the Town of Topsail Beach has been working with the Army Corps
7 of Engineers to complete a storm damage prevention project that was scheduled to be
8 implemented during the winter of 2007-2008, but because of federal budget cuts has
9 now been delayed until at least the winter of 2010-2011, and possibly as late as 2015;
10 and

11 Whereas, many sections of Topsail Beach are now threatened by long term
12 erosion, a problem exacerbated by Hurricane Ophelia, and several properties on both the
13 north and south ends of town will be lost in the next 3-5 years even if there are no
14 significant storm events; and

15 Whereas, the tax base of Topsail's oceanfront is far too valuable to allow it to
16 be lost. The oceanfront in Topsail Beach has an assessed value of approximately
17 \$125,000,000 and could easily top \$300,000,000 after the next assessment. The front
18 row alone currently generates close to \$900,000 in annual tax revenue for Pender
19 County and \$385,000 in annual tax revenue for Topsail Beach; and

20 Whereas, ordinarily with a federal project, the federal government pays 65%,
21 the State pays 26.5%, and the local government pays 8.5%; but because of federal
22 budget cuts there are no federal funds available; and

23 Whereas, the Town of Topsail Beach has determined that this project is so
24 vital to its continued economic well-being that the Town has committed to pay 70% of
25 the project rather than the usual 8.5%; and

26 Whereas, if federal budget cuts had not delayed the project the State would
27 have paid at least 26.5% of the project costs; Now, therefore,
28 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Water Resources Division, the sum
3 of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year
4 to be used to match seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) in local funds provided by the
5 Town of Topsail Beach for a beach renourishment project in November 2007. It is the
6 intent of the General Assembly to appropriate an additional one million five hundred
7 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to assist with the cost of
8 completing the beach renourishment project at Topsail Beach.

9 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.