

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 1027

Short Title: Pope House Museum Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Cowell; and Malone.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 24, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND RESTORATION
3 OF THE HISTORIC DR. MANASSA THOMAS POPE HOUSE.

4 Whereas, Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope, who was born in 1858, became the first
5 African-American physician to be licensed to practice medicine in the State of North
6 Carolina in 1887, after graduating first in his class from the Leonard School of
7 Medicine at Shaw University; and

8 Whereas, Dr. Pope served as an officer in the 3rd North Carolina Volunteers, a
9 regiment formed during the Spanish American War and commanded entirely by
10 African-American officers; and

11 Whereas, Dr. Pope was one of the State's earliest civil rights leaders,
12 obtaining the right to vote in 1902 and running for the Office of Mayor of the City of
13 Raleigh in 1919; and

14 Whereas, Dr. Pope and his family lived in a home in the City of Raleigh that
15 was built in 1901; and

16 Whereas, precious artifacts of Dr. Pope's life have been found in the Pope
17 House, including his voter registration card, which is considered to be the oldest in
18 existence for an African-American man from the South; and

19 Whereas, the Pope House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places
20 and is an official project of the Save America's Treasures Project; and

21 Whereas, the Pope House will be the only historic house museum of an
22 African-American family in the State of North Carolina; and

23 Whereas, the Dr. M.T. Pope House Museum Foundation has made plans to
24 purchase and restore the Pope House for use as a public museum; Now, therefore,
25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Dr. M.T. Pope
27 House Museum Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of two hundred fifty
28 thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to assist the organization in

- 1 purchasing the former home of Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope and restoring it for use as a
2 public museum.
3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.