

Chapter 121.
Archives and History.

Article 1.

General Provisions.

§ 121-1. Short title.

This Article shall be known as the North Carolina Archives and History Act. (1973, c. 476, s. 48.)

§ 121-2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article:

- (1) "Agency" shall mean any State, county, or municipal office, department, division, board, commission or separate unit of government created or established by constitution or law.
- (2) "Commission" shall mean the North Carolina Historical Commission.
- (3) "Department" shall mean the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources of the State of North Carolina.
- (4) "Historic preservation" shall mean any activity reasonably related to the identification, research, conservation, protection, and restoration, maintenance, or operation of buildings, structures, objects, districts, areas, and sites significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of this State, its communities, or the nation.
- (5) "Historic property" or "historic properties" shall mean any building, structure, object, district, area, or site that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of this State, its communities, or the nation.
- (6) "North Carolina Museum of History" shall mean an establishment or establishments administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as the official State museum of history for the collection, preservation, and exhibition of artifacts and other materials that have been determined by the Department or by the Commission to have sufficient historical or other cultural value to warrant retention as evidence of the history and culture of the State and its subdivisions.
- (7) "North Carolina State Archives" shall mean an establishment or establishments administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as the State's official repository for the preservation of those public records or other documentary materials that have been determined by the Department in accordance with rules, regulations, and standards of the Historical Commission to have sufficient historical or other value to warrant their continued preservation and have been accepted by the Department for preservation in its custody.
- (8) "Public record" or "public records" shall mean all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.

- (9) "Records center" or "records centers" shall mean an establishment or establishments administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources primarily for the economical housing, processing, servicing, microfilming or security of public records that must be retained for varying periods of time but which need not be retained in an agency's office equipment and space.
- (10) "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources.
- (11) "State historic site" or "state historic sites" shall mean a property or properties acquired by the State and administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources because of its or their historical, archaeological, architectural, or cultural value in depicting the heritage of the State. (1973, c. 476, s. 48; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (t).)

§ 121-3. Name.

The archival and historical agency of the State of North Carolina shall be the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. (1945, c. 55; 1955, c. 543, s. 1; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-4. Powers and duties of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To accept gifts, devises, and endowments for purposes which fall within the general legal powers and duties of the Department. Unless otherwise specified by the donor or testator, the Department may either expend both the principal and interest of any gift or devises or may invest such funds in whole or in part, by and with the consent of the State Treasurer. The Department may recognize gifts by naming exhibits, features, or programs administered by the Department.
- (2) To conduct a records management program, including the operation of a records center or centers and a centralized microfilming program, for the benefit of all State agencies, and to give advice and assistance to the public officials and agencies in matters pertaining to the economical and efficient maintenance and preservation of public records.
- (3) To preserve and administer, in the North Carolina State Archives, such public records as may be accepted into its custody, and to collect, preserve, and administer private and unofficial historical records and other documentary materials relating to the history of North Carolina and the territory included therein from the earliest times. The Department shall carefully protect and preserve such materials, file them according to approved archival practices, and permit them, at reasonable times and under the supervision of the Department, to be inspected, examined, or copied: Provided, that any materials placed in the keeping of the Department under special terms or conditions restricting their use shall be made accessible only in accordance with such terms or conditions.
- (4) To have materials on the history of North Carolina properly edited, published as other State printing, and distributed under the direction of the Department. The Department may charge a reasonable price for such publications and devote the revenue arising from such sales to the work of the Department.

- (5) With the cooperation of the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to develop, conduct, and assist in the coordination of a program for the better and more adequate teaching of State and local history in the public schools and the institutions of the community college system of North Carolina, including, as appropriate, the preparation and publication of suitable histories of all counties and of other appropriate materials, the distribution of such materials to the public schools and community college system for a reasonable charge, and the coordination of this program throughout the State.
- (6) To maintain and administer the North Carolina Museum of History, to collect and preserve therein important historical and cultural materials, and according to approved museum practices to classify, accession, house, and when feasible exhibit such materials and make them available for study.
- (7) To select suitable sites on property owned by the State of North Carolina, or any subdivision of the State, for the erection of historical markers calling attention to nearby historic sites and prepare appropriate inscriptions to be placed on such markers. The Department shall have all markers manufactured, and when completed, each marker shall be delivered to the Department of Transportation for payment and erection under the provisions of G.S. 136-42.2 and 136-42.3. The Secretary is authorized to appoint a highway historical marker advisory committee to approve all proposed highway historical markers and to establish criteria for carrying out this responsibility.
- (8) In accordance with G.S. 121-9 of this Chapter, to acquire real and personal properties that have statewide historical, architectural, archaeological, or other cultural significance, by gift, purchase, or devise; to preserve and administer such properties; and, when necessary, to charge reasonable admission fees to such properties. In the acquisition of such property, the Department shall also have the authority to acquire nearby or adjacent property adjacent to properties having statewide significance deemed necessary for the proper use, administration, and protection of historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural properties, or for the protection of the environment thereof.
- (9) To administer and enforce reasonable rules adopted and promulgated by the Historical Commission for the regulation of the use by the public of such historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural properties under its charge, which regulations, after having been posted in conspicuous places on and adjacent to such State properties and having been filed according to law, shall have the force and effect of law and any violation of such regulations shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor.
- (10) To coordinate the objectives of the state-created historical and commemorative commissions with the other policies, objectives, and programs of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
- (11) To organize and administer a junior historian program, in cooperation with the Department of Public Education, the public schools, and other agencies or organizations that may be concerned therein.
- (12) With the approval of the Historical Commission, and notwithstanding Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, G.S. 143-49(4), or any other law

pertaining to surplus State property, to dispose of any accessioned records, artifacts, furnishings, and agricultural products in the custody of the Department that are determined to have no further use or value for official or administrative purposes or for research and reference purposes.

- (13) To promote and encourage throughout the State knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina history and heritage by encouraging the people of the State to engage in the preservation and care of archives, historical manuscripts, museum items, and other historical materials; the writing and publication of State and local histories of high standard; the display and interpretation of historical materials; the marking and preservation of historic, architectural, or archaeological structures and sites of great importance; the teaching of North Carolina and local history in the schools and colleges; the appropriate observance of events of importance to the State's history; the publicizing of the State's history through media of public information; and other activities in historical and allied fields.
- (14) With the approval of the Historical Commission, to charge and collect fees not to exceed cost for photographs, photocopies of documents, microfilm and other microforms and other audio or visual reproductions of public records or other documentary materials, objects, artifacts, and research materials; and for the restoration and preservation of documents and other materials important for archival or historical purposes.
- (15) To encourage and develop, in cooperation with the Department of Administration and in consultation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Environmental Quality, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., a central clearinghouse for information on historic preservation for the benefit and use of public and private agencies and persons in North Carolina.
- (16) Repealed by Session Laws 2004-203, s. 51, effective August 17, 2004.
- (17) To enter into an agreement with a private nonprofit corporation for the management of facilities to provide food and beverages at the North Carolina Museum of History. Any net proceeds received by the private nonprofit corporation shall be devoted to the work of the Department. Any private nonprofit corporation entering into an agreement with the Department with regard to the management of the facilities may enter into further agreements with private persons or corporations concerning the operation of the facilities. The Department may enter into an agreement in regard to obtaining or installing equipment, furniture, and furnishings for such facilities. (Rev., ss. 4540, 4541; 1907, c. 714, s. 2; 1911, c. 211, s. 6; C.S., s. 6142; 1925, c. 275, s. 11; 1943, c. 237; 1945, c. 55; 1955, c. 543, s. 1; 1957, c. 330, s. 1; 1959, c. 68, s. 1; 1971, c. 345, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1977, c. 464, s. 38; 1981, c. 721; 1989, c. 379; c. 727, s. 218(83); c. 751, s. 11; 1991, c. 757, s. 5; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 959, s. 30; 1993, c. 522, s. 8; c. 539, s. 915; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1997-443, s. 11A.119(a); 2004-203, s. 51; 2011-284, s. 86; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (u); 2021-158, s. 12.5; 2023-70, s. 2(a).)

§ 121-4.1. North Carolina Register of Historic Places.

(a) The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may establish, expand, and maintain a North Carolina Register of Historic Places composed of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in North Carolina history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Until such time as the North Carolina Register of Historic Places is established, all references to it in the General Statutes and in the rules adopted pursuant to it shall be construed to mean properties and districts in North Carolina that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

(b) The North Carolina Historical Commission shall establish criteria for properties to be included in the State Register of Historic Places, and, within such criteria, shall provide for levels of significance as necessary and appropriate.

(c) The North Carolina Historical Commission shall promulgate regulations requiring that before any property or district may be included on the North Carolina Register of Historic Places, the owner or owners of such property, or a majority of the owners of the properties within the district in the case of an historic district, shall be given the opportunity (including a reasonable period of time) to concur in, or object to, the nomination of the property or district for such inclusion or designation. If the owner or owners of any privately owned property, or a majority of the owners of such properties within the district in the case of an historic district, object to such inclusion or designation, such property shall not be included on the North Carolina Register until such objection has been withdrawn. The regulations under this paragraph shall include provisions to carry out the purposes of this paragraph in the case of multiple ownership of a single property. (1989, c. 60; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-5. Public records and archives.

(a) State Archival Agency Designated. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall be the official archival agency of the State of North Carolina with authority as provided throughout this Chapter and Chapter 132 of the General Statutes of North Carolina in relation to the public records of the State, counties, municipalities, and other subdivisions of government.

(b) Destruction of Records Regulated. – No person may destroy, sell, loan, or otherwise dispose of any public record without the consent of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, except as provided in G.S. 130A-99. Whoever unlawfully removes a public record from the office where it is usually kept, or alters, mutilates, or destroys it shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and upon conviction only fined at the discretion of the court.

When the custodian of any official State records certifies to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources that such records have no further use or value for official and administrative purposes and when the Department certifies that such records appear to have no further use or value for research or reference, then such records may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the agency having custody of them.

When the custodian of any official records of any county, city, municipality, or other subdivision of government certifies to the Department that such records have no further use or value for official business and when the Department certifies that such records appear to have no further use or value for research or reference, then such records may be authorized by the governing body of said county, city, municipality, or other subdivision of government to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the agency having custody of them. A record of such

certification and authorization shall be entered in the minutes of the governing body granting the authority.

The North Carolina Historical Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to make such orders, rules, and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry into effect the provisions of this section. When any State, county, municipal, or other governmental records shall have been destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the procedure authorized in this subsection, any liability that the custodian of such records might incur for such destruction or other disposal shall cease and determine.

(c) Assistance to Public Officers. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall have the right to examine into the condition of public records and shall, subject to the availability of staff and funds, give advice and assistance to public officials and agencies in regard to preserving or disposing of the public records in their custody. When requested by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, public officials shall assist the Department in the preparation of an inclusive inventory of records in their custody, to which inventory shall be attached a schedule, approved by the head of the governmental unit or agency having custody of the records and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, establishing a time period for the retention or disposal of each series of records. So long as such approved schedule remains in effect, destruction or disposal of records in accordance with its provisions shall be deemed to have met the requirements of G.S. 121-5(b).

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a program of inventorying, repairing, and microfilming in the counties for security purposes those official records of the several counties which the Department determines have permanent value, and of providing safe storage for microfilm copies of such records. Subject to the availability of funds, such program shall be extended to the records of permanent value of the cities, municipalities, and other subdivisions of government.

(d) Preservation of Permanently Valuable Records. – Public records certified by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as being of permanent value shall be preserved in the custody of the agency in which the records are normally kept or of the North Carolina State Archives. Any State, county, municipal, or other public official is hereby authorized and empowered to turn over to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources any State, county, municipal, or other public records no longer in current official use, and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is authorized in its discretion to accept such records, and having done so shall provide for their administration and preservation in the North Carolina State Archives. When such records have been thus surrendered, photocopies, microfilms, typescripts, or other copies of them shall be made and certified under seal of the Department, upon application of any person, which certification shall have the same force and effect as if made by the official or agency by which the records were transferred to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and the Department may charge reasonable fees for these copies. The Department may answer written inquiries for nonresidents of the State and for this service may charge a search and handling fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The receipts from this fee shall be used to defray the cost of providing this service.

(d1) General Assembly. – Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or order, rules, or regulations promulgated or adopted thereunder, the custodian of any General Assembly record shall determine, in the custodian's discretion, whether a record is a public record and whether to turn over to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, or retain, destroy, sell, loan, or otherwise dispose of, such records. When requested by the Legislative Services Officer,

the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall assist in the preparation of an inventory of the records to which the request applies.

(e) Archives and Records Management Fund. – The Archives and Records Management Fund is established as a special revenue fund. The Fund consists of donations, gifts, devises, and the fees credited to it under Chapter 161 of the General Statutes. Revenue in the Fund may be used only to offset the Department's costs in providing essential records management and archival services for public records pursuant to Chapter 121 and Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. (1907, c. 714, s. 5; C.S., s. 6145; 1939, c. 249; 1943, c. 237; 1945, c. 55; 1953, c. 224; 1955, c. 543, s. 1; 1959, c. 1162; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1979, c. 361; c. 801, s. 95; 1981, c. 406, ss. 1, 2; 1993, c. 539, s. 916; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1997-309, s. 13; 2001-427, s. 3(a); 2009-451, s. 20B.3(b); 2012-79, s. 2.19(a); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2017-57, s. 14.3(a); 2023-134, s. 27.9(a).)

§ 121-5.1. State Historical Records Advisory Board.

(a) The State Historical Records Advisory Board, which was constituted in 1975 in accordance with 44 U.S.C. § 2501; 36 C.F.R. § 1206 is continued under State law and shall be located administratively in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Board shall consist of 10 members. Eight members shall be appointed by the Governor for three-year staggered terms, and each member shall have experience in the administration and use of historical records. All current members shall continue to serve until the expiration of their term unless a member is removed or the position becomes vacant, in which case the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with subsection (c) of this section. The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Archives and History and the State Archivist shall both serve as ex officio members of the Board.

(b) The Board's primary duty shall be to serve as the central advisory body for historical records coordination within the State and for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). In addition, subject to the availability of funds, the Board shall:

- (1) Offer assistance, advice, and consultation to State, county, and municipal governments, historic sites, museums, historical societies, and other institutions holding records of historical value concerning the care, preservation, and management of their records.
- (2) Solicit, review, and assess grant proposals in connection with NHPRC grants or grants from other sources.
- (3) Offer educational programs and conferences.
- (4) Conduct statewide studies and surveys of the State's historical records.

(c) The Governor may remove any member for good cause shown. The Governor shall fill any vacancy on the Board. Appointees to fill vacancies shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

(d) Members of the Board shall receive per diem and reimbursement for travel and subsistence as provided in G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 138-6, as appropriate.

(e) The Governor shall appoint either the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Archives and History or the State Archivist as the State coordinator as required by NHPRC regulations. The State coordinator shall serve a four-year term and may be reappointed. The State coordinator may designate a deputy State coordinator from the Board's membership.

(f) The Board shall hold at least two meetings each year to conduct business. The Board shall establish the procedures for calling, holding, and conducting regular and special meetings. A majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. (2007-150, s. 1; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-6. Historical publications.

(a) General Provisions. – It shall be the duty of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to promote and encourage the writing of North Carolina history and to collect, edit, publish, print, and distribute books, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, documents, maps, and other materials relating to North Carolina archives and history. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may establish a reasonable charge for such publications and devote the revenue arising therefrom to such additional publication of materials relating to North Carolina archives and history as may be undertaken by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Except for reports, bulletins, and other publications issued for free distribution, professional materials including books and journals published by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources are hereby expressly excluded from provisions of G.S. 147-50.

(b) Editing and Publishing of Official Messages and Other Papers of Governor. – During the term of office of each Governor of this State, a copy of all official messages delivered to the General Assembly, addresses, speeches, statements, news releases, proclamations, executive orders, weekly calendars, articles, transcripts of news conferences, lists of appointments, and other official releases and papers of the Governor shall be kept in the Governor's office for delivery to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources at the end of each quarter during the Governor's administration. These papers shall be compiled and a selection made therefrom by a skilled and competent editor. The editor shall edit, according to acceptable scholarly standards, the selected materials which shall be published in a documentary volume as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the term of office of each Governor. If, for any reason, a Governor serves less than a full term, a documentary volume shall be edited and published for such portion of a term as he shall have served. If a Governor serves more than one term, a documentary volume shall be edited and published for each term served. Funds for editorial assistance, printing, binding, and distribution shall be paid from the Contingency and Emergency Fund. The number of copies of each volume to be printed shall be determined by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in consultation with the Governor whose papers are being published.

(c) It shall be the duty and the responsibility for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to edit and publish a second or new series of the most significant records of colonial North Carolina. From records which have been compiled in the North Carolina State Archives concerning the colonial period of North Carolina, a selection of the most significant documents shall be made therefrom by a skilled and competent editor. The editor shall edit, according to acceptable scholarly standards, the selected materials which shall be published in documentary volumes not to exceed approximately 700 pages each in length until full and representative published colonial records of North Carolina shall have been achieved. The number of copies of each volume to be so printed shall be determined by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and such determination shall be based on the number of copies the Department can reasonably expect to sell in a period of 10 years from the date of publication. In any year during which the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has completed a volume and has it ready for publication, the Department may include in its base budget for that year sufficient funds to pay the estimated costs of publishing the volume. In the event that the volume is not published during that year, the appropriation made, or any unencumbered balance, shall revert to the general fund. (1971, c. 480, s. 6; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1979, c. 1010; 1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1290; 2014-100, s. 6.4(g); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-7. Historical museums.

(a) The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall maintain and administer State historic sites and museums under the management of the Office of Archives and History for the collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of authentic artifacts and other historical materials relating to the history and heritage of North Carolina. The Department, with the approval of the Historical Commission, may acquire, either by purchase, gift, or loan such artifacts and materials, and, having acquired them, shall according to accepted museum practices classify, accession, preserve, and where feasible exhibit such materials and make them available for study. Within available funds, one or more branch museums of history or specialized regional history museums may be established and administered by the Department. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, subject to the availability of staff and funds, may give financial, technical, and professional assistance to nonstate historical museums sponsored by governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations according to regulations adopted by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Notwithstanding Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, G.S. 143-49(4), or any other law pertaining to surplus State property, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may, with the explicit approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission sell, lease, donate, trade, or place on loan any artifact owned by the State of North Carolina and in the custody of and curated by the Office of Archives and History, unless the sale, lease, donation, trade, or loan would be contrary to the terms of acquisition. The net proceeds of any sale or lease, after deduction of the expenses attributable to that sale or lease, shall be deposited in the Office of Archives and History Artifact Fund to the credit of the museum or archives that had custody of the artifact sold or leased and shall be used only for the expenses associated with the purchase, maintenance, or conservation of other artifacts. No artifact curated by any agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may be pledged or mortgaged.

(b) Insofar as practicable, the Office of Archives and History shall accession and maintain records showing provenance, value, location, and other pertinent information on such furniture, furnishings, decorative items, and other objects as have historical or cultural importance and which are owned by or to be acquired by the State for use in the State Capitol and the Executive Mansion, and, upon request of the Department of Administration, any other state-owned building. When any such item or object has been entered in the accession records of the Office of Archives and History, the custodian of such item or object shall, upon its removal from the premises upon which it was located or when it is otherwise disposed of, submit to the Office of Archives and History sufficient details concerning its removal or disposition to permit an adequate entry in the accession records to the end that its location or disposition, and authority for such change, shall be shown therein.

(c), (d) Repealed by Session Laws 2015-218, s. 1, effective August 18, 2015. (1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1979, c. 861, s. 1; 1987, c. 721, s. 1; 1991, c. 689, s. 191(a); c. 757, s. 6; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 769, s. 12.3; 1997-411, s. 4; 2002-159, s. 35(g); 2015-218, s. 1; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2023-70, s. 2(b).)

§ 121-7.1. Maritime Museum; disposition of artifacts.

Notwithstanding Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, G.S. 143-49(4), or any other law pertaining to surplus State property, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with the approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission, may sell, lease, donate, trade, or place on permanent loan any artifact from the collection of the North Carolina Maritime Museum unless the sale, lease, donation, trade, or loan would be contrary to the terms of the acquisition.

Sales or exchanges shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices for accredited museums. If an artifact is sold or leased, the net proceeds of the sale or lease shall be deposited in the State treasury to the credit of a special fund to be used for the improvement of the Museum's collections or exhibits. (1998-212, s. 21(b); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2023-70, s. 2(c).)

§ 121-7.2. Maritime Museum; branch museum.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall assume from the Southport Maritime Museum, Inc., the administration of the Southport Maritime Museum in Brunswick County and shall operate it as a branch of the North Carolina Maritime Museum. (1999-237, s. 26.1(a); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-7.3. Admission and related activity fees and operating hours.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may charge a reasonable admission and related activity fee to the Roanoke Island Festival Park and any historic site or museum administered by the Department. Admission and related activity fees collected under this section are receipts of the Department and shall be deposited in the appropriate special fund. The revenue collected pursuant to this section shall be used only for the individual site or venue where the receipts were generated. The Secretary may adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The Department is exempt from the requirements of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes and G.S. 12-3.1 when adopting, amending, or repealing rules for operating hours and admission fees or related activity fees at the Roanoke Island Festival Park, historic sites, and museums. (2003-284, s. 35A.4; 2013-297, s. 2(a); 2013-360, s. 19.2(a); 2014-100, s. 19.5(a); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2017-57, ss. 14.1(cc), 14.8(d); 2020-78, s. 8.2(b).)

§ 121-7.4. Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall assume from the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, the administration of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum on Hatteras Island and shall designate it as a member of the State History Museums Division, in accordance with the feasibility study conducted by the Department. (2007-359, s. 1(a); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-7.5. Bentonville Battlefield Fund.

(a) Fund. – The Bentonville Battlefield Fund is created as a special, interest-bearing, and nonreverting fund in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of State Historic Sites. The Fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and shall be used for operation, interpretation, maintenance, preservation, development, and expansion at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.

(b) Fund Sources. – Notwithstanding Chapter 146 of the General Statutes, the Fund consists of (i) all revenue derived from donations, gifts, devises, grants, admissions, and fees collected for the benefit of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, (ii) the net proceeds derived from the sale of real property pursuant to G.S. 146-30(d)(13), and (iii) interest on funds in the Fund credited by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3.

(c) Repealed by Session Laws 2021-180, s. 14.1(d), effective July 1, 2021.

(d) Report. – The Division of State Historic Sites shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division by September 30 of each year a report on the Bentonville Battlefield Fund that shall include the source and amount of all funds credited to the Fund and the purpose and amount of

all expenditures from the Fund during the prior fiscal year. (2008-107, s. 19A.1; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2021-180, s. 14.1(d).)

§ 121-7.6. North Carolina Transportation Museum special fund.

(a) **Fund Established.** – The North Carolina Transportation Museum Fund is created as a special, interest-bearing, nonreverting enterprise fund in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and shall be used to pay all costs associated with the operation, interpretation, development, expansion, preservation, and maintenance of the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

(b) **Fund Sources.** – Notwithstanding Chapter 146 of the General Statutes, the Fund consists of (i) all revenue derived from donations, gifts, devises, grants, admissions, and fees collected by or for the benefit of the North Carolina Transportation Museum Fund, (ii) the net proceeds derived from the sale of real property pursuant to G.S. 146-30(d)(14), and (iii) interest on funds in the Fund credited by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3.

(c) **Emergency Reserve.** – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall establish, out of existing unobligated funds including lapsed salaries and unobligated special funds, an emergency reserve fund in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). Any use of the emergency reserve will require reimbursement from museum receipts.

(d) **Audit.** – The Fund shall be subject to the oversight of the State Auditor pursuant to Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes. The Fund shall reimburse the State Auditor for the cost of any audit.

(e) **Report.** – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division by September 30 of each year a report on the North Carolina Transportation Museum Fund that shall include the source and amount of all funds credited to the Fund and the purpose and amount of all expenditures from the Fund during the prior fiscal year. (2011-145, s. 21.1; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2017-57, s. 14.3(b); 2021-180, s. 14.1(e).)

§ 121-7.7. State Historic Sites and Museums special fund.

(a) **Fund.** – The State Historic Sites and Museums Fund is created as a special, interest-bearing revenue fund in the Division of State Historic Sites and the Division of State History Museums. The Fund consists of all receipts derived from the lease or rental of property or facilities, disposition of structures or products of the land, donations, gifts, devises, and admissions and fees collected at the State Historic Sites, State History Museums, and Maritime Museums. The Fund also consists of the net proceeds derived from the sale of real property pursuant to G.S. 146-30(d)(11). The revenues in the Fund may be used only for the operation, interpretation, maintenance, preservation, development, and expansion of the individual State Historic Site, State History Museum, and Maritime Museum where the receipts are generated. The respective Division and the staff from each State Historic Site, State History Museum, and Maritime Museum shall determine how the funds shall be used at that Historic Site, State History Museum, and Maritime Museum.

(b) **(Effective until contingency met – see note) Application.** – This section applies to the individual State Historic Sites and State History and Maritime Museums owned by or under the control of the Division of State Historic Sites and the Division of State History Museums, with the exception of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site and the North Carolina Transportation

Museum. The Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is subject to G.S. 121-7.5. The North Carolina Transportation Museum is subject to G.S. 121-7.6.

(b) **(Effective once contingency met – see note)** Application. – This section applies to the individual State Historic Sites and State History and Maritime Museums owned by or under the control of the Division of State Historic Sites and the Division of State History Museums, with the exception of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, and the North Carolina Transportation Museum. The Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is subject to G.S. 121-7.5. The North Carolina Transportation Museum is subject to G.S. 121-7.6. The Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund is subject to G.S. 121-7.8.

(c) Reports. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources must submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division by September 30 of each year a report on the Fund that includes the source and amounts of all funds credited to the Fund and the purpose and amount of all expenditures from the Fund during the prior fiscal year. (2011-213, s. 1; 2012-142, s. 18.2; 2015-241, s. 14.30(uu); 2017-57, ss. 14.1(dd), 14.3(c); 2021-180, s. 14.1(b); 2023-134, s. 14.3(d).)

§ 121-7.8. (Effective once contingency met – see note) Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund.

(a) Fund. – The Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund is created as a special, interest-bearing revenue fund in the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Fund consists of all receipts derived from the lease or rental of property or facilities, disposition of structures or products of the land, donations, gifts, devises, and admissions and fees collected at the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. The Fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and may be used to pay costs associated with the operation, interpretation, development, expansion, preservation, and maintenance of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.

(b) Fund Sources. – Notwithstanding Chapter 146 of the General Statutes, the Fund consists of (i) all revenue derived from donations, gifts, devises, grants, admissions, and fees collected by or for the benefit of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund, (ii) the net proceeds derived from the sale of real property pursuant to G.S. 146-30(d)(15) [G.S. 146-30(d)(17)], and (iii) interest on funds in the Fund credited by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3.

(c) Board of Directors. – The Tobacco Farm Life Museum Board of Directors, or its successor, shall advise the Secretary on expenditures from the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund and on the basic concepts and operations of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.

(d) Reports. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources must submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division by September 30 of each year a report on the Fund that includes the source and amounts of all funds credited to the Fund and the purpose and amount of all expenditures from the Fund during the prior fiscal year. (2023-134, s. 14.3(c).)

§ 121-8. Historic preservation program.

(a) Historic Preservation Agency Designated. – The historic preservation agency of the State of North Carolina shall be the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

(b) Surveys of Historic Properties. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall conduct a continuing statewide survey to identify, document, and record properties having historical, architectural, archaeological, or other cultural significance to the State, its communities, and the nation. Upon approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission, the Deputy Secretary of Archives and History or his designee as the State Historic Preservation Officer, may nominate appropriate properties for entry in the National Register of Historic Places as established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law 89-665, 16 U.S.C. section 470. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall maintain a permanent file containing research reports, descriptions, photographs, and other appropriate documentation relating to properties deemed worthy of inclusion in the statewide survey.

(c) Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall prepare and revise as needed a State plan for historic preservation, which plan, when approved by the North Carolina Historical Commission, shall constitute official State policy for the preservation, or the encouragement of the preservation, of important historic, architectural, archaeological, and other cultural properties in North Carolina.

(d) Cooperation with Federal Government. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and/or the Department of Administration may enter into and carry out contracts with the federal government or any agency thereof under which said government or agency grants financial or other assistance to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to further the purposes of this Chapter. Either of the Departments may agree to and comply with any reasonable conditions not inconsistent with State law which are imposed on such grants. Such grants or other assistance may be accepted from the federal government or an agency thereof and expended whether or not pursuant to a contract.

(e) Cooperation with Local Governments. – The Department shall, within the limits of staff and available funds, cooperate with and assist counties, cities, municipalities, and other subdivisions of government, and, where appropriate, private individuals and organizations, in promoting historic preservation to the end that important properties which are not owned by the State may be preserved or encouraged to be preserved. Such cooperation and assistance may include but not be limited to reviewing historic preservation plans, evaluating historic properties, and providing technical, financial and professional assistance. The Department may further enter into and carry out contracts with local governments or their agencies and with any private party to further the purposes of this Article.

(f) Continuing Programs. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall develop a continuing program of historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural research and development to include surveys, excavation, salvage, preservation, scientific recording, interpretation, and publication of the State's historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. A reasonable charge may be made for publications resulting therefrom and the income from such sales may be devoted to the work of the Department.

(g) Abandoned Cemeteries. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is authorized to take appropriate measures to record and permanently preserve information of significant historical genealogical or archaeological value when, in the opinion of the Department, any such information located within an abandoned cemetery is in imminent danger of loss or destruction because of the condition or circumstances of the cemetery. The Department may obtain access to any abandoned cemetery for the purpose of recording and preserving information of

significant historical, genealogical or archaeological value pursuant to Chapter 15, Article 4A of the General Statutes: Provided, that prior to the requesting of the administrative warrant, the Department shall contact the affected landowners and request their consent for access to their lands for the purpose of gathering such information. If consent is not granted, the Department shall give reasonable notice of the time, place and before whom the administrative warrant will be requested so that the owner or owners may have an opportunity to be heard. Service of this notice may be in any manner prescribed by N.C.G.S. 1A-1 Rule 4(j). Any measures taken by the Department pursuant to this subsection shall be effected in such a manner as to cause as little inconvenience or disruption as possible to the owners of the land upon which the abandoned cemetery is located and of land necessary to obtain access to the cemetery. (1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1981, c. 215; 1989, c. 65; 2002-159, s. 35(h); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-9. Historic properties.

(a) Administration of Properties Acquired by State. – Historic or archaeological properties acquired by the State for administration by the State of North Carolina shall be under the control and administration of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Upon approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission and the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may, in its discretion, make a contract with any county or municipality within the State or with any nonprofit corporation or organization for the administration of any portion of such property.

(b) Acquisition of Historic Properties. – For the purpose of protecting or preserving any property of historical, architectural, archaeological, or other cultural importance to the people of North Carolina, and subject to the provisions of Subchapter II of Chapter 146 of the General Statutes, the Department may, with the approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission and after consultation with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division, acquire, preserve, restore, hold, maintain, operate, and dispose of such properties, together with such adjacent lands as may be necessary for their protection, preservation, maintenance, and operation. Such property may be real or personal in nature, and in the case of real property, the acquisition may include the fee or any lesser interest therein. Property may be acquired by gift, grant, devise, lease, purchase, or condemnation pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General Statutes, or otherwise. Property may be acquired by the Department, using such funds as may be appropriated for the purpose or monies available to it from any other source.

(b1) In the case of real property, the North Carolina Historical Commission shall report the following information to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division before acquiring the property:

- (1) The statewide historical significance of the site.
- (2) The potential uses of the site.
- (3) The capital requirements of the site over a 20-year period of time.
- (4) The annual operating costs of the site.
- (5) The expected levels of visitation at the site.
- (6) Any other information that would assist in determining the full cost of maintaining, operating, and administering the site as State property.

(c) Interests Which May Be Acquired. – In the case of real property, the interest acquired shall be limited to that estate, interest, or term deemed by the Department to be reasonably necessary for the continued protection or preservation of the property. The Department may

acquire the fee simple title, but where it finds that a lesser interest, including any development right, negative or affirmative easement in gross or appurtenant, covenant, lease, or other contractual right of or to any real property to be the most practical and economical method of protecting and preserving historic property, the lesser interest may be acquired.

(d) Conveyance of Property for Preservation Purposes. – In appropriate cases, the Department may acquire or dispose of the fee or lesser interest to any such property for the specific purpose of conveying or leasing the property back to its original owner or of conveying or leasing it to such other person, firm, association, corporation, or other organization under such covenants, deed restrictions, lease, or other contractual arrangements as will limit the future use of the property in such a way as to insure its preservation. Where such action is taken, the property may be conveyed or leased by private sale. In all cases where property is conveyed, it shall be subjected by covenant or otherwise to such rights of access, public visitation, and other conditions or restrictions of operation, maintenance, restoration, and repair as the Department may prescribe, or to such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Department and the grantee or lessee to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(e) Use of Property so Acquired. – Any historic property acquired, whether in fee or otherwise, may be used, maintained, improved, restored, or operated by the Department for any public purpose within its powers and not inconsistent with the purpose of the continued preservation of the property. The property shall not be subject to condemnation by the State of North Carolina or any of its agencies or political subdivisions at any time, unless such method of acquisition is first approved by the Governor and Council of State.

(f) Emergency Acquisition Where Funds Not Immediately Available. – If funds or contributions for the acquisition of needed historic property are not available, the Governor and Council of State may, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources and approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission, allocate from the Contingency and Emergency Fund an amount sufficient to acquire an option on the property or properties, which option shall continue until 90 days after the adjournment sine die of the next General Assembly. Upon recommendation of the Secretary and approval of the Historical Commission, the Governor and Council of State may allocate funds from the Contingency and Emergency Fund for the immediate acquisition, preservation, restoration, or operation of historically, archaeologically, architecturally, or culturally important properties. All funds hereinafter appropriated to purchase, restore, maintain, develop, or operate historic or archaeological or other important property shall be administered subject to the provisions of Chapter 143C and G.S. 143B-53.1 of the General Statutes unless the statute making the appropriation shall in specific and express terms provide otherwise.

(g) Power to Acquire Property by Condemnation. – In the event that a property which has been found by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to be important for public ownership or assistance is in danger of being sold, used, or neglected to such an extent that its historical or cultural importance will be destroyed or seriously impaired, or that the property is otherwise in danger of destruction or serious impairment, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, after receiving the approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission and of the Governor and Council of State, may acquire the historic property or any interest therein by condemnation under the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General Statutes. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, upon finding that destruction or serious impairment of the value of the property is imminent, shall file with the Governor and Council of State a report on the importance of the property and the desirability of ownership of the property, or the ownership of an

interest therein, by the State of North Carolina. Upon giving their approval, the Governor and Council of State shall cause to have filed such approval with the clerk of the superior court in the county or counties where the property is situated. Until the approval is filed, the power of condemnation may not be exercised. All condemnation proceedings shall be instituted and prosecuted in the name of the State of North Carolina.

(h) Preservation and Custodial Care of State Capitol. – The rotunda, corridors, and stairways of the first floor of the State Capitol and all portions of the second, third, and loft floors of the said building shall be placed in the custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and the Department shall, subject to the availability of funds for the purpose, care for and administer these areas for the edification of present and future generations. The aforesaid areas shall be preserved as historic shrines and shall be maintained insofar as practicable as they shall appear following the restoration of the Capitol. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is authorized to deny the use of the legislative chambers for meetings in order that they, with their historic furnishings, may be better preserved for posterity; provided, however, that the General Assembly may hold therein such sessions as it may by resolution deem proper.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is hereby entrusted with the responsibilities herein specified as being the agency with the experience best qualified to preserve and administer historic properties in a suitable manner. However, for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section, it is hereby directed that such cooperation and assistance shall be made available to the said Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and such labor supplied, as may be feasible, by the Department of Administration.

The offices and working areas of the first floor as well as all washrooms and the exterior of the Capitol shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Administration: Provided, however, that the Department of Administration shall seek the advice of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in matters relating to any alteration, renovation, and furnishing of said offices and areas. (1955, c. 543, s. 1; 1961, c. 724; 1963, c. 210, s. 1; 1965, c. 1129; 1971, c. 480, ss. 1-3, 5; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 34; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 682, s. 2; 1995, c. 507, s. 12(b); 1996, 2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, s. 7.7(a); 2006-203, s. 64; 2011-284, s. 87; 2015-241, ss. 14.30(s), (t); 2017-57, s. 14.1(cc).)

§ 121-9.1. Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge Preservation.

(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 121-9, the State of North Carolina accepts the transfer of the Mattamuskeet Lodge and surrounding property to the State under the Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge Preservation Act, P.L. 109-358. The property shall be transferred to and managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-94, s. 14.14(b), effective July 1, 2016. (2007-13, ss. 1, 2; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2016-94, s. 14.14(b).)

§ 121-10. Security of historic properties.

(a) Designated Employees Commissioned Special Peace Officers by Governor. – Upon application by the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Governor is hereby authorized and empowered to commission as special peace officers such employees of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as the Secretary may designate for the purpose of enforcing the laws, rules, and regulations enacted or adopted for the protection, preservation and government of State historic or archaeological properties under the control or supervision of the Department of

Natural and Cultural Resources. Such employees shall receive no additional compensation for performing the duties of special peace officers under this section.

(b) Powers of Arrest. – Any employee of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources commissioned as a special peace officer shall have the right to arrest with warrant any person violating any law, rule, or regulation on or relating to the State historic or archaeological properties under the control or supervision of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and shall have power to pursue and arrest without warrant any person violating in his presence any law, rule, or regulation on or relating to said historic and archaeological properties under the control or supervision of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

(c) Bond Required. – Each employee of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources commissioned as a special peace officer under this section shall give a bond with a good surety, payable to the State of North Carolina in a sum not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duty as such peace officer. The bond shall be duly approved by and filed in the office of the Commissioner of Insurance, and copies of the same, certified by the Commissioner of Insurance, shall be received in evidence in all actions and proceedings in this State.

(d) Oaths Required. – Before any employee of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources commissioned as a special peace officer shall exercise any power of arrest under this Article, he shall take the oaths required of public officers before an officer authorized to administer oaths. (1955, c. 543, s. 1; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (t).)

§ 121-11. Procedures where assistance extended to cities, counties, and other agencies or individuals.

In consideration of the public purpose thereby achieved, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may assist any county, city, or other political subdivision, corporation or organization, or private individual in the acquisition, maintenance, preservation, restoration, or development of historic or archaeological property by providing a portion of the cost therefor: Provided, that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may not make any acquisition, maintenance, preservation, restoration, or development of any property, nor any assistance for any property, nor any contribution for these purposes, until:

- (1) The property or properties shall have been approved for these purposes by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources according to criteria adopted by the North Carolina Historical Commission,
- (2) The report and recommendations of the Commission have been received and considered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and
- (3) The Department has found that there is a feasible and practical method of providing funds for the acquisition, restoration, preservation, maintenance, and operation of such property.

In all cases where assistance is extended by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to nonstate owners of property, whether from State funds or otherwise, it shall be a condition of assistance that

- (1) The property assisted shall, upon its acquisition or restoration, be made accessible to the public at such times and upon such terms as the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall by rule prescribe;
- (2) That the plans for preservation, restoration, and development be reviewed and approved by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources;

- (3) That the expenditure of such funds be supervised by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and
- (4) That such expenditures be accounted to the Department in a manner and at such times as are satisfactory to it.

In further consideration of the public purpose thereby achieved, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may assist any county, city, or other political subdivision, or corporation nonprofit history museum in the development of interpretive, security or climate control programs or projects. Provided, that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may not make any assistance or contribution from State funds for a program or project until:

- (1) The program or project shall have been approved for these purposes by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources according to criteria adopted by the North Carolina Historical Commission;
- (2) The report and recommendations of the Commission have been received and considered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and
- (3) The Department has found that there is a feasible and practical method of providing funds for the maintenance and operation of such history museum.

In all cases where assistance is extended by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to nonstate owners of history museums, whether from State funds or otherwise, it shall be a condition of assistance that:

- (1) The museum assisted shall be accessible to the public at such times and upon such terms as the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall by rule prescribe;
- (2) Plans for the development of museum programs or projects be reviewed and approved by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources;
- (3) The expenditure of such funds be supervised by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and
- (4) Such expenditures be accounted to the Department in a manner and at such times as are satisfactory to it. (1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1979, c. 861, s. 2; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1014, s. 171(a); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-12. North Carolina Historical Commission.

(a) Protection of Properties on National Register. – It shall be the duty of the Historical Commission, meeting at such times and according to such procedures as it shall by rule prescribe, to provide an advisory and coordinative mechanism in and by which State undertakings of every kind that are potentially harmful to the cause of historic preservation within the State may be discussed, and where possible, resolved, giving due consideration to the competing public interests that may be involved. To this end, the head of any State agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed State or state-assisted undertaking, or the head of any State department, board, commission, or independent agency having authority to build, construct, operate, license, authorize, assist, or approve any State or state-assisted undertaking, shall, prior to the approval of any State funds for the undertaking, or prior to any approval, license, or authorization, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places established pursuant to Public Law 89-665, 16 U.S.C. 470.

Where, in the judgment of the Commission, an undertaking will have an effect upon any listed district, site, building, structure, area, or object, the head of the appropriate State agency shall afford the Commission a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking.

The Historical Commission shall act with reasonable diligence to insure that all State departments, boards, commissions, or agencies potentially affected by the provisions of this section be kept currently informed with respect to the name, location, and other significant particulars of any district, site, building, structure, or object listed or placed upon the National Register of Historic Places. Each affected State department or agency shall furnish, either upon its own initiative or at the request of the Historical Commission such information as may reasonably be required by the Commission for the proper implementation of this section.

(b) Criteria for State Historic Properties. – The Commission shall prepare and adopt criteria for the evaluation of State historic sites and all other real and personal property which it may consider to be of such historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural importance as would justify the acquisition and ownership thereof by the State of North Carolina, or for the extension of any assistance or aid thereto by the State, acting by itself or in connection with any county, city, corporation, organization, or individual. The Commission shall cooperate to the fullest practical extent with any local historical organization and with any city or county historic district properties commission. In evaluating whether a building should be a State historic site, the Commission shall request and review plans for the use and maintenance of the building.

(c) Criteria for State Aid to Historic Properties. – The Commission shall also prepare and adopt criteria for the evaluation of all properties of historic or archaeological importance owned by, under option to, or being considered for acquisition by a county, city, historic properties commission, or other organization or individual for which State aid or assistance is requested from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Commission shall investigate, evaluate, and prepare a written report on all historic or archaeological property for which State aid or appropriations to be administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources are proposed. If the property is a building, the Commission shall request and review the plans for the use, maintenance, operation, and purpose of the building and shall comment on the feasibility of the plans in the written report. This report, which shall be filed as a matter of record in the custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, shall set forth the following opinions or recommendations of the Commission:

- (1) Whether the property is historically authentic;
- (2) Whether it is of such educational, historical, or cultural significance as to be essential to the development of a balanced State program of historic and archaeological sites and properties;
- (3) The estimated total cost of the project under consideration and the apportionment of said cost among State and nonstate sources;
- (4) Whether practical plans have been or can be developed for the funding of the nonstate portion of the costs;
- (5) Whether practical plans have been developed for the continued staffing, maintenance and operation of the property without State assistance; and
- (6) Such further comments and recommendations that the Commission may make.

(c1) Criteria for State Aid to Historical Museums. – The Commission shall also prepare and adopt criteria for the evaluation of all interpretive, security or climate control programs or projects to be installed in nonprofit history museums for which State aid or assistance is requested from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Commission shall investigate, evaluate, and

prepare a written report on all interpretive, security, or climate control programs or projects for which State appropriations to be administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources are proposed. This report, which shall be filed as a matter of record in the custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, shall set forth the following opinions or recommendations of the Commission:

- (1) The statewide educational significance and the qualitative level of the program or project and whether the program or project is essential to the development of a State program of historical interpretation;
- (2) The local or regional need for such a program or project;
- (3) The estimated total cost of the program or project under consideration and the apportionment of said cost among State and nonstate sources;
- (4) Whether practical plans have been or can be developed for the funding of the nonstate portions of the costs;
- (5) Whether practical plans have been developed for the continued staffing, maintenance, and operating of the museum without State assistance; and
- (6) Such further comments and recommendations that the Commission may make.

(d) Commission to Furnish Recommendations to Legislative Committees. – The Commission through the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall furnish as soon as practicable to the chairman of each legislative committee to which is referred any bill seeking an appropriation of State funds to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the purpose of acquiring, preserving, restoring, or operating, or otherwise assisting, any property having historic, archaeological, architectural, or other cultural value or significance, and to the chairman of each legislative committee to which is referred any bill seeking an appropriation of State funds to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the purpose of assisting a history museum, at least five copies of a report on the findings and recommendations of the Commission relating to such property. (1973, c. 476, s. 48; 1975, c. 19, s. 40; 1979, c. 861, ss. 3-5; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1014, s. 171(b); 1995, c. 324, s. 12; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 121-12.1. Grants-in-aid.

Under the concepts of reorganization of State government, responsibility for administering appropriations to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for grants-in-aid to private nonprofit organizations in the areas of history, art, and culture is assigned to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. By February 15 of each year, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall receive, analyze, and recommend to the Governor, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division the disposition of any request for funding received by it from or for any of these organizations. The Department shall disburse under provisions of law any appropriations made to the Department for them. Appropriations to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for grants-in-aid to assist in the restoration of historic sites owned by private nonprofit organizations shall be expended only in accordance with G.S. 121-11, 121-12 and 143B-53.1. (1977, c. 802, s. 47; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 955, s. 40; c. 1014, s. 171(c); 2006-203, s. 65; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s); 2017-57, ss. 14.1(dd), (ee).)

§ 121-12.2. Procedures for preparing budget requests and expending appropriations for grants-in-aid.

Requests for funding may be submitted by these organizations to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. If received by any other department of State government except the General Assembly they shall be forwarded to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. All such requests shall be subjected to the process described in G.S. 121-12.1 and included in the Department's biennial budget request submitted in compliance with the Executive Budget Act.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall notify on a timely basis and in appropriate detail all those recipients of continuing appropriations as grants-in-aid of the requirements for submission of requests for appropriations for the ensuing fiscal period.

The Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources is empowered and directed, in discharging the responsibilities herein assigned, to make regular and timely reviews, studies and recommendations concerning the operations and needs of these organizations for State funds, and to request from the applicants for grants and the recipients of grants through the Department, operating statements, audit reports and other information deemed appropriate. (1977, c. 802, s. 47; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1014, s. 171(d); 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (t).)

§ 121-13. Acquisition of portrait of Governor during term of office.

During the term of office of each Governor of this State and at least six months prior to its expiration, the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources is directed to select a skilled artist to paint a portrait of such Governor, and have the same suitably framed. Upon the painting and acquisition of such portrait, the same shall be placed in some appropriate building to be designated by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and which is located in the City of Raleigh.

The cost of the painting and acquisition of said portrait, including the cost of the frame and other necessary expenses incident thereto, shall be paid from the Contingency and Emergency Fund. (1955, c. 1248; 1973, c. 476, s. 48; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (x).)

§§ 121-13.1 through 121-13.2. Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 476, s. 48.