

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 304

Short Title: Bertie Beaver Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Rogers; and H. Hunter.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 24, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EXTEND THE BEAVER DAMAGE
2 CONTROL PROGRAM AND TO INCLUDE BERTIE COUNTY IN THE
3 PROGRAM.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. (a) Subsection (b) of Section 69 of Chapter 1044 of the 1991 Session
7 Laws, as amended by Section 111 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 27.3
8 of Chapter 769 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 26.6 of Chapter 507 of the 1995
9 Session Laws, and Section 27.15 of Chapter 18 of the Session Laws of the 1996 Second
10 Extra Session, reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) The Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board shall develop a program
12 to control beaver damage on private and public lands. Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick,
13 Carteret, Chatham, Chowan, Craven, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Edgecombe,
14 Franklin, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir,
15 Lincoln, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland,
16 Vance, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson Counties shall participate in the
17 program. The Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity
18 to the Wildlife Resources Commission in the implementation of the program. In
19 developing the program, the Board shall:

- 1 (1) Orient the program primarily toward public health and safety and
2 toward landowner assistance, providing some relief to landowners
3 through beaver control and management rather than eradication;
- 4 (2) Develop a priority system for responding to complaints about beaver
5 damage;
- 6 (3) Develop a system for documenting all activities associated with beaver
7 damage control, so as to facilitate evaluation of the program;
- 8 (4) Provide educational activities as a part of the program, such as printed
9 materials, on-site instructions, and local workshops;
- 10 (5) Provide for the hiring of personnel necessary to implement beaver
11 damage control activities, administer the program, and set salaries of
12 personnel;
- 13 (6) Evaluate the costs and benefits of the program that might be applicable
14 elsewhere in North Carolina.

15 No later than January 15, 1997, the Board shall issue a report to the Wildlife
16 Resources Commission on the program to date, including recommendations on the
17 feasibility of continuing the program in participating counties and the desirability of
18 expanding the program into other counties. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall
19 prepare a plan to implement a statewide program to control beaver damage on private and
20 public lands. No later than March 15, 1997, the Wildlife Resources Commission shall
21 present its plan in a report to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and
22 Economic Resources, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic
23 Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division."

24 Section 2. Subsection (h) of Section 69 of Chapter 1044 of the 1991 Session
25 Laws, as amended by Section 111 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 27.3
26 of Chapter 769 of the 1993 Session Laws, and Section 26.6 of Chapter 507 of the 1995
27 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

28 "(h) Subsections (a) through (d) of this section expire June 30, ~~1997-1998.~~"

29 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Wildlife
30 Resources Commission the sum of four hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$465,000)
31 for the 1997-98 fiscal year to provide the State share necessary to continue the beaver
32 damage control program established by Section 69 of Chapter 1044 of the 1991 Session
33 Laws, as amended by Section 111 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 27.3
34 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 26.6 of Chapter 507 of the 1995 Session Laws, and
35 Section 27.15 of Chapter 18 of the Session Laws of the 1996 Second Extra Session, in
36 Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Chatham, Chowan, Craven, Columbus,
37 Cumberland, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Harnett,
38 Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender,
39 Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Vance, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson
40 Counties, provided the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in federal funds is
41 available in each fiscal year to provide the federal share. These funds shall be matched
42 by four thousand dollars (\$4,000) of local funds in each fiscal year from each of the
43 participating counties. Counties participating in this program shall make a commitment

- 1 of their local matching funds to the Wildlife Resources Commission no later than
2 September 30 of that fiscal year.
3 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.