



destroyed by an arsonist; Richmond County is now the second most economically distressed county in the State; but from all this has come a determination to flourish; and Whereas, the City of Hamlet is the current owner of the Opera House (which was purchased with funds raised by the Seaboard Festival Day, Inc.), and the city actively assists with the daily operations and maintenance of this property with the Board of Directors of the Seaboard Festival Day, Inc.; and

Whereas, the City of Hamlet pledges financial support to the continuing efforts to make the Opera House successful; and

Whereas, the restoration of the Opera House will allow the use of the facility as part of the annual Seaboard Festival adding immeasurably to Hamlet's Centennial Year Celebration and providing a gathering place for Hamlet's citizens into the twenty-first century; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the City of Hamlet  
3 the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year  
4 and the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal  
5 year for the renovation and furnishing of the Hamlet Opera House.

6           Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.