

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE DRH30221-LG-120A (3/12)

Short Title: Funds/Zoo/North American Upgrade. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives E. Warren, Tolson, Brubaker, and Hurley (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

4 Whereas, funding is needed for improvements at the North Carolina Zoological Park
5 to increase the Zoo's impact on children's education and teacher development, improve visitor
6 experience, and address higher animal welfare standards, while also bringing an economic
7 return to the Zoo and the State; and

8 Whereas, improvements to the polar bear exhibit will provide increased
9 opportunities to bring in additional bears and support opportunities for breeding and will result
10 in increased attendance and revenue for the Zoo; and

11 Whereas, original funding to make improvements to the North American exhibits at
12 the North Carolina Zoological Park, which includes the conversion of the pool water to
13 saltwater to meet animal welfare standards, was to be provided through repair and renovation
14 dollars but due to budget restraints was retracted; and

15 Whereas, the North Carolina Zoological Society has raised the sum of \$2,100,000 to
16 match the State funding (through a COPS bond) in the amount of \$2,700,000 for a total of
17 \$4,800,000; and

18 Whereas, an additional \$1,800,000 is needed to complete the project; Now,
19 therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
22 Environment and Natural Resources the sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$1,800,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to complete the North
24 American exhibits, including the polar bear exhibit, by upgrading and expanding the exhibit
25 and holding areas based on recently recommended animal welfare standards.

26 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.

