

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 254

Short Title: African-American Heritage Comm Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Womble, Adams, and Parmon (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 9, 2011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
2 COMMISSION.
3

4 Whereas, the African-American Heritage Commission (Commission) was
5 established in 2008 by an act of the General Assembly to "assist the Secretary of Cultural
6 Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African-American history, arts,
7 and culture"; and

8 Whereas, some of the Commission's notable accomplishments include the
9 following:

- 10 (1) Providing in-kind support for four heritage initiatives: the Federal
11 Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, the development of the 2011
12 Office of Archives and History Teachers Institute, the Public Art Component
13 of the African-American Music Trail, and the African-American Cultural
14 Celebration;
- 15 (2) Providing fiscal support for the publication of "A Day of Blood: The 1898
16 Wilmington Race Riot" by LeRae Sikes Umfleet and the reprinting of "A
17 History of African Americans in North Carolina" by Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D.
18 Escott, and Flora J. Hatley;
- 19 (3) Supporting archival acquisitions and providing direct-impact technical
20 support for heritage practitioners ranging from cemetery preservationists to
21 visual artists and academic scholars;
- 22 (4) Promoting Civil War 150th anniversary initiatives; and

23 Whereas, the Commission found during its 34-county survey of North Carolina
24 residents that the key to preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina's
25 African-American heritage is to be responsive to community needs and visions; and

26 Whereas, funding is needed to enable the Commission to continue its efforts to
27 engage communities, raise awareness of heritage resources and professionals, build an online
28 heritage database, and develop partnerships that support inclusive education, heritage tourism,
29 preservation of African-American historic structures, scholarly research, and heritage
30 workforce support and development; Now, therefore,

31 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

32 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
33 Cultural Resources the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2011-2012
34 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2012-2013 fiscal
35 year to support the operations of the State's African-American Heritage Commission.



1

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.