

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

H

1

HOUSE BILL 121

Short Title: Erwin Textile Museum Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hall; and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 12, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE CREATION OF A TEXTILE MUSEUM IN THE TOWN OF ERWIN IN HARNETT COUNTY.

Whereas, the Town of Erwin in Harnett County has been designated as the denim capital of the world by virtue of two large plants located in the town which manufacture approximately 1,000,000 linear yards of denim per week; and

Whereas, denim produced in the Town of Erwin is currently sold in manufactured products in every country of the world; and

Whereas, the production of cotton used in the manufacturing of denim is of historical significance to the Town of Erwin and related areas of Harnett County; and

Whereas, the Town of Erwin (formerly the Town of Duke) developed from the creation of a company-owned mill town into an independent small town; and

Whereas, the creation of a textile museum in the Town of Erwin will enhance tourism in the area; and

Whereas, the textile museum will include cotton culture demonstrations, cotton processing from yarn into finished products from the 1800s to present day, a replica of a company store, and a collection of historical equipment used in cotton ginning, carding, weaving, looming, and other production; and

Whereas, the textile museum will encourage tourism to other local attractions including the General William C. Lee Museum of Dunn which memorializes the father of

1 the United States Airborne, the two local Civil War battlegrounds of Averagesboro and
2 Bentonville, the contemporary textile milling tours currently offered in the Town of
3 Erwin, and the nearby campus of Campbell University at Buies Creek; and

4 Whereas, the creation of a new local attraction will further enhance the local
5 economies through the creation of jobs and collaborative revenues based upon the Town
6 of Erwin's close proximity to tourist travel along I-95 and I-40; Now, therefore,
7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Town of Erwin
9 in Harnett County the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 1997-
10 98 fiscal year for the creation of a textile museum in the Town of Erwin, provided these
11 funds are matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) of non-State funds for every one
12 dollar (\$1.00) of State funds.

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