

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 649  
Corrected Copy 3/26/03**

Short Title: International Home Furnishings Market. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Wood, Bowie and Jones (By Request) (Primary Sponsors); and Jeffus.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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March 25, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND  
3 TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOME  
4 FURNISHINGS MARKET.

5       Whereas, the first Southern Home Furniture Market was held in High Point in  
6 1909 with 40 exhibitors in five buildings; and

7       Whereas, in 1913, the Market was held twice a year for the first time, used  
8 30,000 square feet, had 100 exhibitors and 400 attendees, and used space in eight  
9 buildings; and

10       Whereas, in 1989, the Market's name was changed to the International Home  
11 Furnishings Market to reflect the international flavor of the show; and

12       Whereas, in 2003, with nearly 11 million square feet of showroom space, the  
13 Market is equal to 175 football fields under one roof; and

14       Whereas, in 2003, the Market will attract approximately 80,000 attendees per  
15 show, using over 180 buildings and welcoming visitors from more than 100 countries,  
16 with international buyers and exhibitors representing approximately 10 percent of the  
17 Market's attendance; and

18       Whereas, North Carolina produces 35 percent of the nation's wholesale  
19 furniture shipments with 600 manufacturing plants employing 75,000 people in 75 of  
20 the State's 100 counties. Nationwide there are approximately 3,000 plants with over  
21 275,000 employees; and

22       Whereas, in 2002 the economic impact of the Market on North Carolina's  
23 economy just from the attendees' expenditures in the State was 330 million dollars; and

24       Whereas, with its 80,000 people in attendance, the International Home  
25 Furnishings Market would rank as the 10th largest city in North Carolina; Now,  
26 therefore,

27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
2 Department of Commerce the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars  
3 (\$2,500,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred thousand dollars  
4 (\$500,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year for the International Home Furnishings  
5 Market. These funds shall be allocated as follows:

6           (1)    \$2,000,000 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year to enhance and improve the  
7                    Market's transportation terminal.

8           (2)    \$500,000 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year and \$500,000 for the  
9                    2004-2005 fiscal year to provide shuttle service to the Market's 80,000  
10                  annual visitors.

11           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.