

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1280

Short Title: DOT Report/Federal Rail Assistance to NC. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pate, Rapp, Justice, Wright (Primary Sponsors); Bell, Dollar, Frye, McComas, Tucker, and Wilson.

Referred to: Transportation.

April 19, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPORT
3 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON STRATEGIES TO BEST UTILIZE
4 FEDERAL FUNDS FOR RAIL IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS THE WALLACE
5 TO CASTLE HAYNE RAIL CORRIDOR.

6 Whereas, expanding and upgrading passenger, freight, commuter, and short
7 line rail service is important to the economy of North Carolina; and

8 Whereas, the Citizens of this State have stated their support for expanded
9 passenger rail service through resolutions from over 100 cities, towns, and organizations
10 submitted to the House Interim Committee on Expanding Rail Service in the fall of
11 2004; and

12 Whereas, the Congress is debating reauthorization of the federal Surface
13 Transportation Program; and

14 Whereas, the Congress is considering new and innovative means of financing
15 construction of transportation infrastructure, including highways, transit, intermodal and
16 rail projects; and

17 Whereas, the Congress is debating reform of the National Railroad Passenger
18 Corporation, known as Amtrak, and the result may be more responsibilities for rail
19 transferred to the states; and

20 Whereas, it is in the best interest of the State of North Carolina to respond in
21 a timely way to these proposed changes as they impact our transportation programs and
22 economic development opportunities; and

23 Whereas, many rail corridors in the State, such as the Wallace to Castle
24 Hayne rail corridor, are in need of restoration and improvement; Now, therefore,
25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Transportation is directed, no more than 60
27 days following enactment of reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation
28 Program, to develop and report its recommendations on strategies, using funds available

1 to the Department, to provide matching funds so the State can leverage the maximum
2 federal and private participation in funding rail corridor improvements, such as the
3 restoration of the rail corridor from Wallace to Castle Hayne.

4 **SECTION 2.** The Department shall submit its report to the Joint
5 Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, or if the General Assembly is not in
6 session, to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee.

7 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.