

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 602

Short Title: Short-Line RR Matching Grant Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Rapp, Pate, Dickson (Primary Sponsors); Boylan and Gulley.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 13, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 TRANSPORTATION FOR SHORT-LINE RAILROAD MATCHING GRANTS.
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4 Whereas, North Carolina's short-line railroads play a key role in the State's
5 economic development and transportation service; and

6 Whereas, North Carolina's short-line railroads are needed to provide essential
7 services to other modes of transportation and the North Carolina port system; and

8 Whereas, each \$1 million in grant money for short-line railroads is known to
9 reduce the cost per train car load significantly; and

10 Whereas, North Carolina freight service is dependent upon the short-line
11 component of the delivery system; and

12 Whereas, North Carolina agriculture is dependent upon essential service by
13 short-line railroads; and

14 Whereas, North Carolina economic development and commerce is dependent
15 upon essential service by short-line railroads; and

16 Whereas, matching grant requests to improve tracks and to maintain and
17 upgrade short-line railroads exceeded \$8.2 million in 2006; and

18 Whereas, State funds are needed to maintain short-line railroads as a viable
19 component of the State's freight delivery system and as a contributor to economic
20 development, agriculture, and transportation in this State; and

21 Whereas, such funding for matching grants is essential in order to prevent the
22 loss of regional rail service; Now, therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Transportation the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the
26 2007-2008 fiscal year to use as matching grants for short-line railroads.

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.