

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 358

Short Title: 1898 Wilmington Historic Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jordan; and Ballance.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 11, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 **AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL**
3 **RESOURCES FOR A MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE HISTORIC**
4 **EVENTS OF NOVEMBER OF 1898 IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON.**

Whereas, during the late 1800s, the City of Wilmington was North Carolina's largest city with African-Americans making up two-thirds of the city's population; and

Whereas, many of the African-American citizens owned valuable land and successful businesses and held high offices in city and county government, comprising a thriving black middle and upper class; and

Whereas, after the elections of 1898, a group of racist local residents instigated a three-day period of civil disorder and violence against African-American citizens and public officials, resulting in the loss of lives, the destruction of businesses, and the expulsion of duly elected officials and business owners from the city; and

Whereas, 1998 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the tragic and lawless events that occurred in November of 1898 in the City of Wilmington; and

Whereas, a diverse group of interested citizens have formed the "1898 Centennial Commission" to observe and memorialize these events through numerous civic activities;

Now, therefore,

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, the sum of one hundred thousand
3 dollars (\$100,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year to establish a permanent memorial to
4 commemorate the historical significance of the 1898 riots in the City of Wilmington.

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