



HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 14.3: Tobacco Farm Life Museum Special Fund

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 18, 2023
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Kellette Wade Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 14.3 of S.L. 2023-134		

OVERVIEW: Section 14.3 of S.L. 2023-134 directs the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to assume ownership and administration of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Johnston County from the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc. and creates the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund within the DNCR to pay costs associated with the operation, interpretation, development, expansion, preservation, and maintenance of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. Of the funds appropriated to the DNCR General Fund, \$375,000 in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and \$350,000 in the 2024-2025 fiscal year must be used for the operation, administration, and new positions staffing the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. The section also repeals laws (Article 51, Chapter 143) requiring the DNCR to establish and otherwise manage tobacco museums in Rockingham County and in Nash or Edgecombe County.

The section that repeals statutes requiring the DNCR to establish and manage tobacco museums became effective October 3, 2023.

The remainder of the section becomes effective only if the Tobacco Farm Life Museum transfers and conveys all of its assets to the State.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum located in Johnston County is currently owned and administered by the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc. Previously, the DNCR was required under Article 51, Chapter 143 to establish and operate tobacco museums and stipulated that one tobacco museum must be in Rockingham County and another in either Nash or Edgecombe Counties.

Section 14.3 of S.L. 2023-134 does the following:

- Directs the DNCR to assume ownership and administration of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Johnston County from the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc.
- Directs the DNCR to use \$375,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 and \$350,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025 for the operation, administration, and new positions staffing the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.
- Creates the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund within the DNCR to pay costs associated with the operation, interpretation, development, expansion, preservation, and maintenance of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. The section establishes specific requirements for the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund and application of net proceeds. The Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund will consist of (i) all revenue from donations, gifts, devises, grants, admissions, and fees collected by or for its benefit; (ii) net proceeds from the sale of real property; and (iii) interest on funds in the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund. The DNCR is required by the section to submit a report on the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund by September 30 of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources,

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the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division.

- Repeals statutes that require the DNCR to establish and manage tobacco museums.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The repeal of statutes that required the DNCR to establish and manage tobacco museums became effective October 3, 2023. The remainder of the section becomes effective only if the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc. transfers and conveys all of its assets to the State.