

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

**H.B. 232**  
**Feb 26, 2025**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH40143-MHa-49

Short Title: Funds/Short-Line Railroad Disaster Assistance. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pless.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF  
3 SHORT-LINE RAILROADS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE.  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The State Controller shall transfer the sum of sixteen million three  
6 hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred seventy-six dollars (\$16,392,176) in nonrecurring  
7 funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year from funds available in the State Emergency Response and  
8 Disaster Relief Reserve to the Department of Transportation's Rail Division (Division) for the  
9 Freight Rail & Rail Safety Improvement Fund (Rail Fund) established by G.S. 124-5.1, and those  
10 funds are appropriated from the Rail Fund for the purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this  
11 section.  
12 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Division shall use the funds transferred and appropriated  
13 pursuant to this section to provide grants for recovery and repair of the following short-line  
14 railroads damaged by Hurricane Helene:  
15 (1) Fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) to the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad,  
16 LLC, for line restoration.  
17 (2) Two million three hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred seventy-six  
18 dollars (\$2,392,176) for track rehabilitation, facility repairs, and revenue loss  
19 to the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, LLC.  
20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.



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