

## HOUSE BILL 143 REPORT

Public libraries in North Carolina have a "fair chance" of receiving \$1.5 million in state aid during the 1969-71 biennium, in the opinion of Rep. Charles W. Phillips (D-Guilford), sponsor of House Bill 143 introduced February 13. The bill was reported favorably by the House Committee on Libraries April 3 and re-referred to the Appropriations Committee, which had made no report to the full House May 15.

When asked about prospects for passage of the bill in mid-May, Rep. Phillips told NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES that the subcommittee on state government of the House Appropriations Committee had recommended that high priority be given to approval of 50 percent of the \$3 million allocated to public libraries in Section 1 of the bill. The remaining \$1.5 million was given low priority by the subcommittee. Under provisions of the bill, any funds appropriated by the state under this bill are to be used "for the maintenance, improvement, stimulation, increase, and equalization of the facilities and operation or both" of local public libraries.

Phillips noted that state aid to public libraries was more urgently needed than in previous years because funds for public libraries provided by the Library Services and Construction Act would be substantially reduced this year if recommendations of the Nixon Administration are followed by Congress. He commended David Stick of Kitty Hawk, chairman of the Legislative Commission to Study Library Support in North Carolina appointed by former Governor Dan Moore in 1967, for his diligent efforts on behalf of increased state aid for public libraries both before and during the 1969 session of the General Assembly.

Other sponsors of H.B. 143 were Reps. Thomas E. Strickland and Mrs. John B. Chase, both of Wayne County. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Hector McLean (D-Robeson). McLean, Phillips, and Strickland were members of the Stick Commission, which issued its report in August, 1968.