

Poole Bills ^[1]

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Poole Bills

by Jerry Leath Mills, 2006

The Poole Bills ^[2], also called "Poole Monkey Bills," were a series of attempts in the 1920s by General Assembly ^[3] member D. Scott Poole ^[4] to outlaw the teaching of evolution in state-supported schools. Inspired by actions of the Tennessee legislature that precipitated the infamous Scopes Trial ^[5] of 1920, and backed by fundamentalist forces centered around a committee of 100 churchmen of the North Carolina Presbyterian Synod, Poole introduced his first bill in 1925 and saw it defeated by a narrow margin. In February 1927 Poole's bill was reintroduced and defeated in committee by a margin of 25 to 11 after a rousing speech by Paul J. Ryan, a law student at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill ^[6]. Victory for the bill's opponents was widely attributed to some presentations and debates in Charlotte ^[7] sponsored by former students of Horace Williams ^[8] (1858-1940), the controversial philosophy professor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Additional Resources:

The Evolution Controversy in North Carolina in the 1920's, UNC Libraries:

Primary Sources: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/evolution/primarysources.html> ^[9]

Glossary: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/evolution/glossary.html> ^[10]

Subjects:

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) ^[11]

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[Religion](#) ^[13]

[UNC Press](#) ^[14]

Authors:

[Mills, Jerry Leath](#) ^[15]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[16]

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Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/poole-bills>

[2] <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/evolution/poolebill.html>

[3] <https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly>

[4] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/poole-david-scott>

[5] http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/08/2/l_082_01.html

[6] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi>

[7] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte>

[8] http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Williams, Henry_Horace.html

[9] <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/evolution/primarysources.html>

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