

## Poole Bills <sup>[1]</sup>

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## Poole Bills

by Jerry Leath Mills, 2006

The [Poole Bills](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, also called "Poole Monkey Bills," were a series of attempts in the 1920s by [General Assembly](#) <sup>[3]</sup> member [D. Scott Poole](#) <sup>[4]</sup> to outlaw the teaching of evolution in state-supported schools. Inspired by actions of the Tennessee legislature that precipitated the infamous [Scopes Trial](#) <sup>[5]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[6]</sup>. Victory for the bill's opponents was widely attributed to some presentations and debates in [Charlotte](#) <sup>[7]</sup> sponsored by former students of [Horace Williams](#) <sup>[8]</sup> (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> <sup>[9]</sup>

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

### Subjects:

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Law and legal history](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Religion](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

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### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

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### Links

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

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

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

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

[5] [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/08/2/l\\_082\\_01.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/08/2/l_082_01.html)

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

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

[8] [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Williams, Henry\\_Horace.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Williams, Henry_Horace.html)

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