

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 595

Short Title: Modify NE Regional Commission.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Martin of Pitt.

Referred to: State and Local Government.

March 29, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE LAW CREATING THE NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 158-8.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 158-8.2. **Creation of Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission.**

(a) There is created the Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission to facilitate economic development and tourism development in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties, and any other county assigned to the Commission by the Department of Commerce as authorized by law. The Commission shall be located administratively in the Department of Commerce but shall exercise its statutory powers and duties independently of the Department of Commerce. Funds appropriated for the Commission by the General Assembly shall be disbursed directly to the Commission at the beginning of each fiscal year.

(b) The Commission shall consist of 18 appointed members and ~~two~~ one ex officio ~~members, member,~~ as follows: provided below. Each appointed member shall be an

1 experienced business person who resides for most of the year in one or more of the  
2 counties that are members of the Commission.

3 (1) ~~Six members shall be appointed by the Governor, including one~~  
4 ~~developer of northeastern North Carolina, one banker, one county~~  
5 ~~commissioner from Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, or Perquimans~~  
6 ~~Counties, or from the county or counties assigned to the Commission by~~  
7 ~~the Department of Commerce as authorized by law, and one county~~  
8 ~~commissioner from Beaufort, Bertie, Chowan, or Martin Counties, or~~  
9 ~~from the county or counties assigned to the Commission by the~~  
10 ~~Department of Commerce as authorized by law. Governor.~~

11 (2) Six members shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the  
12 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in  
13 accordance with G.S. 120-121, including one developer of northeastern  
14 North Carolina, one banker, and one county commissioner from Dare, Hyde,  
15 Tyrrell, or Washington Counties. 120-121.

16 (3) Six members shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the  
17 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in  
18 accordance with G.S. 120-121, including one developer of northeastern  
19 North Carolina, one banker, and one county commissioner from Halifax,  
20 Hertford, Gates, or Northampton Counties. 120-121.

21 (4) The Secretary of Commerce, or a designee.

22 (5) ~~The Secretary of Cultural Resources, or a designee.~~

23 Any person appointed to the Commission ~~in a categorical appointment as who is~~ also a  
24 county commissioner may hold ~~such that~~ that office in addition to the offices permitted by  
25 G.S. 128-1.1. The appointing authorities are encouraged to discuss and coordinate their  
26 appointments in an effort to ensure as many counties served by the Commission are  
27 represented among the membership of the Commission.

28 (c) ~~The appointing authority shall designate two of the initial appointees pursuant~~  
29 ~~to subdivision (b)(1), one of the initial appointees pursuant to subdivision (b)(2), two of~~  
30 ~~the initial appointees pursuant to subdivision (b)(3), and two of the initial appointees~~  
31 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b)(4) to serve for terms ending June 30, 1995; the remainder of~~  
32 ~~the initial appointees shall serve for terms ending June 30, 1997. Their successors shall~~  
33 ~~serve for four year terms ending on June 30 quadrennially thereafter. All members shall~~  
34 serve staggered two-year terms ending on June 30 biennially.

35 (d) Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall be for the balance  
36 of the unexpired term. Vacancies in appointments made by the General Assembly shall  
37 be in accordance with G.S. 120-122.

38 (d1) The initial meeting shall be called by the Secretary of the Department of  
39 Commerce. The Commission shall meet no less than quarterly.

40 (e) ~~The Commission shall appoint an economic development advisory board made~~  
41 ~~up of no more than seven members to advise and assist the Commission in adopting and~~  
42 ~~implementing an economic development program. The Commission shall also appoint a~~  
43 ~~tourism advisory board made up of no more than seven members to advise and assist the~~

1 ~~Commission in adopting and implementing a tourism development program. Members of~~  
2 ~~the Commission may serve on these advisory boards. elect annually from among its~~  
3 ~~membership a four-member executive committee consisting of a chair, a vice-chair, a~~  
4 ~~secretary, and a treasurer. Members shall serve one-year terms on the executive~~  
5 ~~committee. The executive committee shall meet no less than quarterly.~~

6 (f) In addition to the powers and duties granted to economic development  
7 commissions in this Article, the Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic  
8 Development Commission shall:

9 (1) Adopt and implement an economic development program, with the  
10 assistance of the economic development advisory board, as follows:

- 11 a. Survey northeastern North Carolina and determine the assets,  
12 liabilities, and resources that the region contributes to the  
13 economic development process;
- 14 b. Enhance economic development activities that use the area's  
15 natural resources;
- 16 c. Develop and evaluate alternatives for northeastern North  
17 Carolina economic development;
- 18 d. Develop a preferred economic development plan for the region  
19 and establish strategies for implementing the plan;
- 20 e. Conduct feasibility studies to determine the nature and placement  
21 of economic developments for maximum economic impact;
- 22 f. Identify potential sites for economic development; and
- 23 g. Carry out other activities to develop and promote economic  
24 development; development.

25 ~~(2) Adopt and implement a tourism development program, with the advice~~  
26 ~~and assistance of the tourism advisory board, as follows:~~

- 27 a. ~~Adopt, implement, and update a water based tourism~~  
28 ~~development strategy;~~
- 29 b. ~~Provide assistance to developers with requirements for tourism~~  
30 ~~development, as deemed necessary by the Commission;~~
- 31 e. ~~Conduct feasibility studies to determine the nature and placement~~  
32 ~~of tourism developments for maximum economic impact;~~
- 33 d. ~~Identify sites for tourism development; and~~
- 34 e. ~~Carry out other activities to develop and promote water-based~~  
35 ~~tourism;~~

36 (3) Coordinate activities with and enter into contracts with any nonprofit  
37 corporation created to assist the Commission in carrying out its powers  
38 and ~~duties; and~~ duties.

39 (4) Report to the General Assembly by March 31 each year on the work of  
40 the Commission.

41 (g) Within the limits of funds available, the Commission may hire and fix the  
42 compensation of any personnel necessary to its operations, contract with consultants for  
43 any services as it may require, and contract with the State of North Carolina or the federal

1 government, or any agency or department thereof, for any services as may be provided by  
2 those agencies. The Commission shall hire an employee to serve as president and chief  
3 executive officer. The Commission may carry out the provisions of any contracts it may  
4 enter.

5 Within the limits of funds available, the Commission may lease, rent, purchase, or  
6 otherwise obtain suitable quarters and office space for its staff, and may lease, rent, or  
7 purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, and other equipment.

8 (h) Members of the Commission who are State employees shall receive travel  
9 expenses as provided in G.S. 138-6. Other Commission members shall receive per diem  
10 of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) a day for each day of service when the Commission  
11 meets and shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence as provided in G.S. 138-5. ~~The~~  
12 ~~Commission may adopt policies authorizing additional per diem of one hundred dollars~~  
13 ~~(\$100.00) a day for non-State employee members' additional days of service including~~  
14 ~~Commission subcommittee meetings or other Commission activities, plus reimbursement for~~  
15 ~~related travel and subsistence as provided in G.S. 138-5. Members of the advisory boards who~~  
16 ~~are State employees shall receive travel expenses as provided in G.S. 138-6 for participating in~~  
17 ~~meetings and other official activities authorized by the Commission. Other members of the~~  
18 ~~advisory boards shall receive per diem and travel expenses as provided in G.S. 138-5 for~~  
19 ~~participating in meetings and other official activities authorized by the Commission."~~

20 Section 2. The Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development  
21 Commission shall make the transition from the former membership to the new  
22 membership provided in this act, as follows:

23 (1) The present executive committee shall serve until a new executive  
24 committee is elected.

25 (2) The Governor and the General Assembly shall make the appointments  
26 provided in G.S. 158-8.2(b)(1) through (3) for terms beginning July 1,  
27 1999. Each appointing authority shall designate one-half of the  
28 appointees to serve initial terms of three years and shall designate the  
29 remaining appointees to serve two-year terms. Their successors shall  
30 serve two-year terms.

31 (3) On the date the members of the Commission appointed pursuant to this  
32 section take office, the terms of all current members of the Commission  
33 appointed before the effective date of this act expire.

34 Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.