

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 1071

Short Title: North Carolina Minority Support Center. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Rand; Berger of Franklin, Holloman, Kinnaird, and Lucas.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA MINORITY
2 SUPPORT CENTER TO FURTHER A STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF LENDING
3 FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP AND WEALTH CREATION IN DISADVANTAGED
4 COMMUNITIES.
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6 Whereas, the North Carolina Minority Support Center has been recognized as
7 a national and international model for creating banking opportunities for the unbanked
8 and for individuals in low-wealth communities; and

9 Whereas, the North Carolina Minority Support Center has been certified a
10 Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the United States Treasury
11 Department and has leveraged federal funding in excess of \$7,000,000 to serve
12 disadvantaged communities; and

13 Whereas, the North Carolina Minority Support Center was featured in the
14 2004 Ford Foundation Annual Report, and one of its members was recognized by The
15 White House Partnership for Prosperity, the United States Treasury Department, and the
16 World Council of Credit Unions; and

17 Whereas, the North Carolina Minority Support Center provides assistance to
18 the seven branch offices of the Generations Community Credit Union and to the five
19 branch offices of the Latino Community Credit Union; and

20 Whereas, 75% of the Generations and Latino Community Credit Union
21 members are low-income and did not have a bank account at a traditional financial
22 institution prior to joining a credit union; and

23 Whereas, the North Carolina Minority Support Center and its affiliates aim to
24 reduce predatory practices in vulnerable communities by providing financial services to
25 over 60,000 people across the State; and

26 Whereas, since 1991, the North Carolina Minority Support Center and its
27 affiliates have been working to reduce crime and community decay through secure
28 banking, homes, jobs, and wealth creation; and

1 Whereas, the State values and supports the diverse minority communities
2 served by the North Carolina Minority Support Center for their significant contributions
3 to the State's economy, particularly in the area of economic development; and

4 Whereas, the larger minority communities in the State, African-American,
5 Latino/Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian-Americans, have a total
6 buying power of over \$47,000,000,000, and it is expected to grow to over more than
7 \$69,000,000,000 in the next five years; and

8 Whereas, more than 953,000 minority citizens over the age of 16 are
9 members of the State's labor force, and that number is projected to exceed 2.4 million
10 by the year 2009; and

11 Whereas, there are over 61,000 minority-owned businesses in the State, and
12 they employ more than 73,000 people and generate over \$6,700,000,000 in revenue; and

13 Whereas, more than 1,200 jobs in the State have been created through
14 business loans; and

15 Whereas, more than 500 people each year have benefited from access to
16 bilingual financial counseling and financial literacy education; and

17 Whereas, a \$5,000,000 investment in the North Carolina Minority Support
18 Center will be leveraged on a 10-to-1 basis and create 1,000 new homeowners; Now,
19 therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Commerce the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the
23 2005-2006 fiscal year for the North Carolina Minority Support Center. The Center shall
24 allocate two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) to the Generations
25 Community Credit Union and two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000)
26 to the Latino Community Credit Union. These funds shall be matched on the basis of
27 one dollar (\$1.00) of State funds to every ten dollars (\$10.00) of non-State funds, and
28 will be loaned to low-income communities.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.