

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1248

Short Title: Northeastern NC Regional Econ. Dev. Comm. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jenkins; and Jones.

Referred to: State & Local Government.

March 26, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE NORTHEASTERN NORTH
3 CAROLINA REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO
4 NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST COMMISSION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 120-123(62) reads as rewritten:

7 "(62) ~~The Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development~~
8 North Carolina's Northeast Commission, as established by
9 G.S. 158-8.2."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143B-437.21(6) reads as rewritten:

11 "(6) Regional partnership. – Any of the following:

- 12 a. The Western North Carolina Regional Economic Development
13 Commission created in G.S. 158-8.1.
14 b. ~~The Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic~~
15 ~~Development~~ The North Carolina's Northeast Commission
16 created in G.S. 158-8.2.
17 c. The Southeastern North Carolina Regional Economic
18 Development Commission created in G.S. 158-8.3.
19 d. The North Carolina's Eastern Region Development Commission
20 created in G.S. 158-33.
21 e. The Carolinas Partnership, Inc.
22 f. The Research Triangle Regional Partnership.
23 g. The Piedmont Triad Partnership."

24 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 158-8.2 reads as rewritten:

25 "§ 158-8.2. ~~Creation of Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic~~
26 ~~Development~~ North Carolina's Northeast Commission.

27 (a) There is created the ~~Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic~~
28 ~~Development Commission~~ North Carolina's Northeast Commission to facilitate
29 economic development in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates,

1 Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and
2 Washington Counties, and any other county assigned to the Commission by the
3 Department of Commerce as authorized by law. The Commission shall be located
4 administratively in the Department of Commerce but shall exercise its statutory powers
5 and duties independently of the Department of Commerce. Funds appropriated for the
6 Commission by the General Assembly shall be disbursed directly to the Commission at
7 the beginning of each fiscal year.

8 (b) The Commission shall consist of 18 appointed members and one ex officio
9 member, as provided below. Each appointed member shall be an experienced business
10 person who resides for most of the year in one or more of the counties that are members
11 of the Commission.

12 (1) Six members shall be appointed by the Governor.

13 (2) Six members shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the
14 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in
15 accordance with G.S. 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.

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

20 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-237, s. 16.6(a).

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

26 (c) All members shall serve staggered two-year terms ending on June 30
27 biennially.

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

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

33 (e) The Commission shall elect annually from among its membership a
34 four-member executive committee consisting of a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a
35 treasurer. Members shall serve one-year terms on the executive committee. The
36 executive committee shall meet no less than quarterly.

37 (f) In addition to the powers and duties granted to economic development
38 commissions in this Article, the ~~Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic~~
39 ~~Development~~ North Carolina's Northeast Commission shall:

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

- 42 a. Survey northeastern North Carolina and determine the assets,
43 liabilities, and resources that the region contributes to the
44 economic development process;

- 1 b. Enhance economic development activities that use the area's
2 natural resources;
3 c. Develop and evaluate alternatives for northeastern North
4 Carolina economic development;
5 d. Develop a preferred economic development plan for the region
6 and establish strategies for implementing the plan;
7 e. Conduct feasibility studies to determine the nature and
8 placement of economic developments for maximum economic
9 impact;
10 f. Identify potential sites for economic development; and
11 g. Carry out other activities to develop and promote economic
12 development.

13 (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-237, s. 16.6(a).

14 (3) Coordinate activities with and enter into contracts with any nonprofit
15 corporation created to assist the Commission in carrying out its powers
16 and duties.

17 (4) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-237, s. 16.5(b).

18 (g) Within the limits of funds available, the Commission may hire and fix the
19 compensation of any personnel necessary to its operations, contract with consultants for
20 any services as it may require, and contract with the State of North Carolina or the
21 federal government, or any agency or department thereof, for any services as may be
22 provided by those agencies. The Commission shall hire an employee to serve as
23 president and chief executive officer. The Commission may carry out the provisions of
24 any contracts it may enter.

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

28 (h) Members of the Commission who are State employees shall receive travel
29 expenses as provided in G.S. 138-6. Other Commission members shall receive per diem
30 of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) a day for each day of service when the Commission
31 meets and shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence as provided in G.S. 138-5."

32 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 158-12.1 reads as rewritten:

33 **"§ 158-12.1. Commission funds secured.**

34 The Western North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission,
35 Research Triangle Regional Commission, Southeastern North Carolina Regional
36 Economic Development Commission, Piedmont Triad Partnership, ~~Northeastern North~~
37 ~~Carolina Regional Economic Development~~ North Carolina's Northeast Commission,
38 North Carolina's Eastern Region Development Commission, and Carolinas Partnership,
39 Inc., may deposit money at interest in any bank, savings and loan association, or trust
40 company in this State in the form of savings accounts, certificates of deposit, or such
41 other forms of time deposits as may be approved for county governments. Investment
42 deposits and money deposited in an official depository or deposited at interest shall be
43 secured in the manner prescribed in G.S. 159-31(b). When deposits are secured in
44 accordance with this section, no public officer or employee may be held liable for any

1 losses sustained by an institution because of the default or insolvency of the depository.
2 This section applies to the regional economic development commissions listed in this
3 section only for as long as the commissions are receiving State funds."

4 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.