

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 1656**

Short Title: Funds for Regional Councils of Government. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Snow; Atwater, Goss, Purcell, and Queen.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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May 20, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO REGIONAL COUNCILS OF  
3 GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON A REGIONAL  
4 BASIS IN THE AREAS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT LOCAL NEEDS, AND TO  
6 PROVIDE TARGETED ASSISTANCE TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN  
7 DISTRESSED COUNTIES WITH ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

8       Whereas, North Carolina's Regional Councils of Government have provided  
9 effective assistance to local governments in every region of the State since 1980; and

10       Whereas, Regional Councils of Government have been successful in  
11 leveraging the annual State appropriations into an impressive level of State and federal  
12 grants to benefit communities and citizens across the State, obtaining more than \$50 for  
13 every dollar appropriated; and

14       Whereas, North Carolina's Regional Councils of Government bring local  
15 governments together to deal with economic growth and other common needs on a  
16 regional scale, playing a valuable role in bridging the gaps between rural and urban  
17 areas, as local governments' needs have expanded, especially in economically distressed  
18 counties and in growth areas; and

19       Whereas, Regional Councils of Government are in an ideal position to help  
20 local governments in the State's most distressed areas develop and carry out projects to  
21 change economic conditions and restore hope to these communities; Now, therefore,  
22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23       **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
24 Department of Commerce the sum of one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000)  
25 for 2008-2009, in addition to funds appropriated for 2008-2009 in the 2007  
26 Appropriations Act [S.L. 2007-323]. Funds appropriated under this section shall be  
27 allocated to regional councils of government or lead regional organizations as provided  
28 by this section. Each regional council of government or lead regional organization is  
29 allocated ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from this appropriation.

1           **SECTION 2.** A regional council of government may use funds appropriated  
2 by Section 1 of this act only to assist local governments in grant applications, economic  
3 development, community development, support of local industrial development  
4 activities, infrastructure and water resource development, and other activities as deemed  
5 appropriate by the member governments.

6           **SECTION 3.** Funds appropriated by this act shall be paid by electronic  
7 transfer in two equal installments, the first no later than September 1 each year and the  
8 second subsequent to acceptable submission of the annual report due to the Joint  
9 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division  
10 by February 15 of each year as specified in Section 6 of this act.

11           **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated in this act shall not be used for payment of  
12 dues or assessments by the member governments and shall not supplant funds  
13 appropriated by the member governments.

14           **SECTION 5.** Each council of government or lead regional organization shall  
15 report on program activities, objectives, expenditures, and accomplishments in the same  
16 manner as required in Section 13.6(e)(2) of S.L. 2007-323, except that reports required  
17 in this section shall be submitted by February 15, 2009.

18           **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.