

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

S

1

SENATE BILL 1297*

Short Title: Regional Economic Recovery Housing Alliances. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jones; and Atwater.

Referred to: Commerce.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO WORK WITH LOCAL
3 GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT TO CONVENE
4 AND ORGANIZE REGIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY HOUSING ALLIANCES, AS
5 RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON
6 POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Commerce shall work with local governments
9 through the regional councils of government to establish Regional Economic Recovery
10 Housing Alliances in each of the three geographic regions of the State, mountains, central and
11 coastal. The Department of Commerce shall assist the regional councils of governments in
12 identifying activities that will help local governments develop and manage housing-related
13 economic stimulus projects, thereby increasing economic activity, stimulating investment, and
14 improving job retention and economic growth. The regional councils shall convene and
15 organize regional housing recovery alliances, bringing together stakeholders including local
16 governments, homebuilders, real estate professionals, community oriented banks, mortgage
17 lenders, local economic developers, nonprofit community development organizations, housing
18 counseling agencies, chambers of commerce, and major employers.

19 The councils of government shall use available funds to make pilot grants to an eligible
20 local government in each of the three geographic regions, based on the presentation of a
21 proposed work plan, to carry out the work plan, consistent with the purposes of this act.

22 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Regional Economic Recovery Housing Alliances created in
23 accordance with Section 1 of this act shall mobilize housing related economic stimulus efforts
24 at a regional level tailored to market conditions and the needs of local governments in the
25 region. The Alliances may pursue any of the following purposes:

- 26 (1) Organize projects and financing that will put homebuilders, crews, and
27 trades people back to work building and renovating homes.
28 (2) Keep families that are facing foreclosure in their homes.
29 (3) Prepare families for equity building homeownership.
30 (4) Assemble financing for economic development projects, including
31 affordable housing projects, from federal, State and other sources.
32 (5) Promote construction projects that will meet regional needs and foster
33 sound, sensible growth.

34 **SECTION 2.(b)** The Regional Economic Recovery Housing Alliances shall build
35 on work currently under way in many regions through the federal EDA, HOME, CDBG, and
36 Weatherization programs, as well as programs of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency,
37 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the North Carolina Rural Economic



1 Development Center, and the Department of Commerce in order to leverage the use of public
2 investments.

3 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.