

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1284

Short Title: NE Reg. Econ. Dev. Commission.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Martin of Pitt.

Referred to: Appropriations.

July 5, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 158 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 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. 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.

(b) The Commission shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

(1) Five members shall be appointed by the Governor, including one developer of northeastern North Carolina, one banker, one county commissioner from Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, or Perquimans Counties, and one county commissioner from Beaufort, Bertie, Chowan, or Martin Counties;

(2) Five members shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in accordance with G.S. 120-121, including one developer of

1 northeastern North Carolina, one banker, and one county  
2 commissioner from Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or Washington Counties;

3 (3) Five members shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the  
4 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in  
5 accordance with G.S. 120-121, including one developer of  
6 northeastern North Carolina, one banker, and one county  
7 commissioner from Halifax, Hertford, Gates, or Northampton  
8 Counties;

9 (4) The Secretary of Commerce or a designee; and

10 (5) The Secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, or a  
11 designee.

12 Any person appointed to the Commission in a categorical appointment as a county  
13 commissioner may hold such office in addition to the offices permitted by G.S 128-1.1.

14 (c) The appointing authority shall designate two of the initial appointees pursuant  
15 to subsection (b)(1) of this section, one of the initial appointees pursuant to subsection  
16 (b)(2) of this section, two of the initial appointees pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of this  
17 section, and two of the initial appointees pursuant to subsection (b)(4) of this section to  
18 serve for terms ending June 30, 1995; the remainder of the initial appointees shall serve  
19 for terms ending June 30, 1997. Their successors shall serve for four-year terms ending  
20 on June 30 quadrennially thereafter.

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

24 (e) The Commission shall appoint an economic development advisory board  
25 made up of no more than seven members to advise and assist the Commission in  
26 adopting and implementing an economic development program. The Commission shall  
27 also appoint a tourism advisory board made up of no more than seven members to  
28 advise and assist the Commission in adopting and implementing a tourism development  
29 program. Members of the Commission may serve on these advisory boards.

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

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

35 a. Survey northeastern North Carolina and determine the assets,  
36 liabilities, and resources that the region contributes to the  
37 economic development process.

38 b. Enhance economic development activities that use the area's  
39 natural resources.

40 c. Develop and evaluate alternatives for northeastern North  
41 Carolina economic development.

42 d. Develop a preferred economic development plan for the region  
43 and establish strategies for implementing the plan.

- 1           e.     Conduct feasibility studies to determine the nature and  
2                     placement of economic developments for maximum economic  
3                     impact.
- 4           f.     Identify potential sites for economic development.
- 5           g.     Carry out other activities to develop and promote economic  
6                     development.
- 7           (2)    Adopt and implement a tourism development program, with the advice  
8                     and assistance of the tourism advisory board, as follows:
- 9                     a.     Adopt, implement, and update a water-based tourism  
10                     development strategy.
- 11                    b.     Provide assistance to developers with requirements for tourism  
12                     development, as deemed necessary by the Commission.
- 13                    c.     Conduct feasibility studies to determine the nature and  
14                     placement of tourism developments for maximum economic  
15                     impact.
- 16                    d.     Identify sites for tourism development.
- 17                    e.     Carry out other activities to develop and promote water-based  
18                     tourism.
- 19           (3)    Coordinate activities with and enter into contracts with any nonprofit  
20                     corporation created to assist the Commission in carrying out its powers  
21                     and duties.
- 22           (4)    Report to the General Assembly by March 31 each year on the work of  
23                     the Commission.
- 24           (g)    The Governor shall appoint and set the salary of a Director of Economic  
25                     Development who shall coordinate the Commission's activities with regard to the  
26                     economic development program. The Governor shall appoint and set the salary of a  
27                     Director of Tourism who shall coordinate the Commission's activities with regard to the  
28                     tourism program.
- 29                     Within the limits of funds available, the Commission may hire and fix the  
30                     compensation of any other personnel necessary to its operations, contract with  
31                     consultants for any services as it may require, and contract with the State of North  
32                     Carolina or the federal government, or any agency or department thereof, for any  
33                     services as may be provided by those agencies. The Commission may carry out the  
34                     provisions of any contracts as it may enter.
- 35                     Within the limits of funds available, the Commission may lease, rent, or purchase, or  
36                     otherwise obtain suitable quarters and office space for its staff, and may lease, rent, or  
37                     purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, and other equipment.
- 38           (h)    Members of the Commission who are State employees shall receive travel  
39                     expenses as provided in G.S. 138-6. Other Commission members shall receive per diem  
40                     and travel expenses as provided in G.S. 138-5. Members of the advisory boards who  
41                     are State employees shall receive travel expenses as provided in G.S. 138-6 for  
42                     participating in meetings and other official activities authorized by the Commission.  
43                     Other members of the advisory boards shall receive per diem and travel expenses as

1 provided in G.S. 138-5 for participating in meetings and other official activities  
2 authorized by the Commission."

3           Sec. 2. G.S. 120-123 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

4           "(60) The Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development  
5           Commission, as established by G.S. 158-8.2."

6           Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
7 Commerce the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal  
8 year and the sum of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) for the  
9 1994-95 fiscal year for the activities of the Northeastern North Carolina Regional  
10 Economic Development Commission. These funds shall not revert at the end of each  
11 fiscal year.

12           Sec. 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.