

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2227

Short Title: Rural Economic Development Appropriation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Crawford; Brisson, Bryant, Coleman, Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Goodwin, Langdon, Parmon, Spear, Tarleton, E. Warren, R. Warren, Wilkins, and Wray.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 20, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO STIMULATE JOB-CREATING VENTURES, EXPAND BUSINESS
2 OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN
3 DISTRESSED RURAL AREAS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated to the North Carolina Rural Economic
7 Development Center, Inc., the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the
8 2008-2009 fiscal year to be used to continue and expand the Rural Economic Transition
9 Program for the following purposes:

- 10 (1) To provide grants to local governments for building reuse and
11 restoration projects leading to job or business creation, including
12 brownfield assessment and remediation projects leading to productive
13 reuse, with priority given to towns or communities with populations of
14 less than 10,000.
- 15 (2) To provide grants to support economic recovery and revitalization in
16 small towns, with priority given to towns with populations less than
17 10,000 experiencing hardship posed by business losses, devastation
18 from natural disasters, or persistent poverty.
- 19 (3) To provide grants for innovative local and regional economic
20 development and agriculture diversification projects that spur business
21 activity, job creation, or public or private investment.

22 **SECTION 2.** Priority for grant funds shall be given to eligible applicants in
23 development tier one areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08.

24 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center,
25 Inc., may use a portion of the funds appropriated under this act, not to exceed four
26 percent (4%), for administration of the programs for which funds are appropriated under
27 this act.

1 **SECTION 4.** The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center,
2 Inc., may contract with other agencies and institutions for certain aspects of the
3 programs for which funds are appropriated under this act, including the design of
4 program guidelines and evaluation of program results.

5 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.