

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

**H.B. 159**  
**Feb 21, 2025**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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**HOUSE BILL DRH10066-MWa-15**

Short Title: Orphan Roads Maintenance Program Grant. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Winslow.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ORPHAN ROADS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM GRANT.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
4 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Orphan Roads Maintenance Program  
5 Grant."  
6 **SECTION 2.** The Orphan Roads Maintenance Program Grant Fund is established as  
7 a special fund within the Department of Transportation to be administered by the Department.  
8 **SECTION 3.** The purpose of this act is to award funds for the improvement of  
9 subdivision streets located within a county or a municipality that do not meet Department of  
10 Transportation minimum construction requirements for addition to the State highway system or  
11 municipal street system for maintenance.  
12 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of  
13 Transportation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year the sum of seventy-five million dollars  
14 (\$75,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the Orphan Roads Maintenance Program  
15 Grant Fund established in Section 2 of this act. Subject to Section 5 of this act, unexpended funds  
16 shall not revert.  
17 **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of Transportation shall establish procedures and criteria  
18 and adopt rules for awarding funds under this act to a county or a municipality for the  
19 improvement of a subdivision street in accordance with all of the following requirements:  
20 (1) Once an orphan road meets Department standards, ownership shall be  
21 conveyed to the Department or to a local municipality.  
22 (2) The total aggregate amount of funds awarded to a subdivision shall not exceed  
23 two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).  
24 (3) The required local share of matching funds by the county shall be twenty-five  
25 cents (25¢) for every one dollar (\$1.00) awarded. A county may satisfy this  
26 condition by financing the local share in accordance with G.S. 153A-205.  
27 (4) An award of funds under this act shall not be distributed to a county or a  
28 municipality until the Department or a municipality accepts the subdivision  
29 street to the State highway system or municipal street system for maintenance.  
30 **SECTION 6.** This act is repealed effective June 30, 2030. The Department shall  
31 close the Orphan Roads Maintenance Program Grant Fund after transferring any remaining  
32 balance to the Highway Fund for subsequent appropriation by the General Assembly.  
33 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.

