

1 State economic trends that contribute to the reduction in the State's
2 industrial base and that inhibit the State's ability to sustain or attract
3 new and expanding businesses.

4 (3) The purpose of this Part is to stimulate economic activity and to create
5 new jobs within the State.

6 (4) The enactment of this Part will maintain consistency and
7 accountability in a key economic development program and will
8 ensure that the program benefits the State and its citizens.

9 (5) Nothing in this Part shall be construed to constitute a guarantee or
10 assumption by the State of any debt of any business or to authorize the
11 taxing power or the full faith and credit of the State to be pledged.

12 **"§ 143B-437.71. One North Carolina Fund established as a nonreverting account.**

13 (a) Establishment. – The One North Carolina Fund is established as a special
14 revenue fund in the Department of Commerce.

15 (b) Purposes. – Moneys in the One North Carolina Fund may be allocated only to
16 local governments for use in connection with securing commitments for the recruitment,
17 expansion, or retention of new and existing businesses. Moneys in the One North
18 Carolina Fund shall be used for the following purposes only:

19 (1) Installation or purchase of equipment.

20 (2) Structural repairs, improvements, or renovations to existing buildings
21 to be used for expansion.

22 (3) Construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas,
23 or electric utility distribution lines or equipment for existing buildings.

24 (4) Construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas,
25 or electric utility distribution lines or equipment for new or proposed
26 buildings to be used for manufacturing and industrial operations.

27 (5) Any other purposes specifically provided by an act of the General
28 Assembly.

29 **"§ 143B-437.72. Agreements required; disbursement of funds.**

30 (a) Agreements Required. – Funds may be disbursed from the One North
31 Carolina Fund only in accordance with agreements entered into between the State and
32 one or more local governments and between the local government and a grantee
33 business.

34 (b) Company Performance Agreements. – An agreement between a local
35 government and a grantee business must contain the following provisions:

36 (1) A commitment to create or retain a specified number of jobs within a
37 specified salary range at a specific location and commitments
38 regarding the time period in which the jobs will be created or retained
39 and the minimum time period for which the jobs must be maintained.

40 (2) A commitment to provide proof satisfactory to the local government
41 and the State of new jobs created or existing jobs retained and the
42 salary level of those jobs.

43 (3) A provision that funds received under the agreement may be used only
44 for a purpose specified in G.S. 143B-437.71(b).

- 1 (4) A provision allowing the State or the local government to inspect all
2 records of the business that may be used to confirm compliance with
3 the agreement or with the requirements of this Part.
4 (5) A provision establishing the method for determining compliance with
5 the agreement.
6 (6) A provision establishing a schedule for disbursement of funds under
7 the agreement that allows disbursement of funds only in proportion to
8 the amount of performance completed under the agreement.
9 (7) A provision allowing recapture of grant funds if a business
10 subsequently fails to comply with the terms of the agreement.
11 (8) Any other provision the State or the local government finds necessary
12 to ensure the proper use of State or local funds.

13 (c) Local Government Grant Agreement. – An agreement between the State and
14 one or more local governments shall contain the following provisions:

- 15 (1) A commitment on the part of the local government to match the funds
16 allocated by the State. A local match may include cash, fee waivers,
17 in-kind services, the donation of assets, the provision of infrastructure,
18 or a combination of these.
19 (2) A provision requiring the local government to recapture any funds to
20 which the local government is entitled under the company performance
21 agreement.
22 (3) A provision requiring the local government to reimburse the State for
23 any funds improperly disbursed by the local government.
24 (4) A provision allowing the State access to all records possessed by the
25 local government necessary to ensure compliance with the company
26 performance agreement and with the requirements of this Part.
27 (5) A provision establishing a schedule for the disbursement of funds from
28 the One North Carolina Fund to the local government that reflects the
29 disbursement schedule established in the company performance
30 agreement.
31 (6) Any other provision the State finds necessary to ensure the proper use
32 of State funds.

33 (d) Disbursement of Funds. – Funds may be disbursed from the One North
34 Carolina Fund to the local government only after the local government has
35 demonstrated that the business has complied with the terms of the company
36 performance agreement. The State shall disburse funds allocated under the One North
37 Carolina Fund to a local government in accordance with the disbursement schedule
38 established in the local government grant agreement.

39 **"§ 143B-437.73. Program guidelines.**

40 The Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Governor's Office, shall
41 develop guidelines related to the administration of the One North Carolina Fund and to
42 the selection of projects to receive allocations from the Fund. At least 20 days before the
43 effective date of any guidelines or nontechnical amendments to guidelines, the
44 Department of Commerce must publish the proposed guidelines on the Department's

1 web site and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed
2 guidelines. In addition, the Department must accept oral and written comments on the
3 proposed guidelines during the 15 business days beginning on the first day that the
4 Department has completed these notifications. For the purpose of this section, a
5 technical amendment is either of the following:

- 6 (1) An amendment that corrects a spelling or grammatical error.
- 7 (2) An amendment that makes a clarification based on public comment
8 and could have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately
9 preceded the public comment.

10 **"§ 143B-437.74. Reports.**

11 The Department of Commerce shall publish a report on the use of funds in the One
12 North Carolina Fund at the end of each fiscal quarter. The report shall contain
13 information on the commitment, disbursement, and use of funds allocated under the One
14 North Carolina Fund. The report is due no later than one month after the end of the
15 fiscal quarter and must be submitted to the following:

- 16 (1) The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.
- 17 (2) The chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees.
- 18 (3) The chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.
- 19 (4) The Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly."

20 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 150B-1(d)is amended by adding a new subdivision to

21 read:

22 "(d) Exemptions from Rule Making. – Article 2A of this Chapter does not apply to
23 the following:

- 24 ...
- 25 (13) The Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office in
26 developing guidelines for the One North Carolina Fund under Part 2H
27 of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes."

28 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.