

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

**H**

**D**

**HOUSE DRH60423-RBz-19A\* (4/28)**

Short Title: Econ. Infrastructure Program at Rural Center. (Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Daughtridge, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors); G. Allen, Dickson, Harrell, L. Johnson, LaRoque, Luebke, McComas, Owens, Tolson, and Walker.

---

Referred to:

---

1                                 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS TO THE RURAL  
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO BE USED TO CREATE A NORTH  
4 CAROLINA ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6                 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Rural  
7 Economic Development Center, Inc., the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000)  
8 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The funds shall be used to establish and implement the  
9 North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program. The Program shall consist of the  
10 following four areas of investment:

- 11                 (1) To provide grants to local governments to construct critical water and  
12                         wastewater facilities to sites where these facilities will generate private  
13                         job-creating investment.
- 14                 (2) To create a new lending program tailored specifically to the needs of  
15                         small- and medium-size businesses that have the capacity to grow and  
16                         create jobs.
- 17                 (3) To provide matching grants to local governments in distressed areas  
18                         and equity investments in public-private ventures that will  
19                         productively reuse vacant buildings, with priority given to towns with  
20                         a population of less than 5,000.
- 21                 (4) To promote the diversification of North Carolina small farm  
22                         businesses into value-added production and marketing and to increase  
23                         opportunities in food and beverage manufacturing and distribution for  
24                         small farm entrepreneurs.

1           **SECTION 2.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., may contract  
2 with other State agencies and constituent institutions of The University of North  
3 Carolina for certain aspects of the program, including design of program guidelines and  
4 evaluation of program results.

5           **SECTION 3.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., may use up to  
6 five percent (5%) of the funds appropriated by this act to cover its expenses in  
7 administering the North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program.

8           **SECTION 4.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., shall report to  
9 the Joint Legislative Committee on Governmental Operations on a quarterly basis  
10 concerning the progress of the North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program. It must  
11 make its initial report on the program no later than January 15, 2005.

12           **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.