

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS85193-LT-108 (03/13)

Short Title: Regional Partnership Vision Plan Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Soles.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE STATE'S SEVEN REGIONAL
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR
3 VISION PLANS.
4

5 Whereas, North Carolina's seven regional economic development
6 partnerships are successfully pursuing their mandated goals of attracting new industries,
7 encouraging existing industries, encouraging agricultural development, effecting
8 regional workforce solutions, and encouraging new business and industrial ventures by
9 local as well as foreign capital; and

10 Whereas, the seven regional economic development partnerships work
11 successfully with local and State economic development professionals, county and
12 municipal government leaders, universities and community colleges, and businesses by
13 providing research assistance, technical support, strategic planning, marketing and
14 promotional support, and product development guidance that facilitate the arrival and
15 creation of businesses and industrial investment; and

16 Whereas, the regional economic development partnerships foster regionalism
17 in economic development that assures that every North Carolina community, regardless
18 of its location or financial resources, has access to high-quality strategic planning,
19 marketing, project management, and technical assistance; and

20 Whereas, through its regional economic development partnerships, the State
21 gives all 100 of its counties, including its poorest and most remote counties, an
22 opportunity to succeed in the global economy; and

23 Whereas, the seven regional economic development partnerships serve as
24 catalysts to economic development in some of North Carolina's most distressed regions
25 by helping to grow existing small businesses, bringing new kinds of businesses into
26 rural communities and regions, stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship, and
27 creating new jobs; and

1 Whereas, each of the seven regional economic development partnerships has
2 invested significant time and energy to develop cluster-based vision plans and to
3 establish strategies for implementing these plans; and

4 Whereas, the regional economic development partnerships' vision plans have
5 proven effective as a means for readying North Carolina communities for success in a
6 knowledge-driven global economy; Now, therefore,

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Department of Commerce the sum of two million one hundred thousand dollars
10 (\$2,100,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to be allocated to the seven Regional
11 Economic Development Commissions for their regional economic development
12 partnerships. Each of the seven regional economic development partnerships shall
13 receive three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) during the 2007-2008 fiscal year to
14 implement its vision plan.

15 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.