

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
1961 SESSION

CHAPTER 284  
HOUSE BILL 369

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND TO CREATE AND FIX THE POWERS OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Northampton County is authorized and empowered to call a special election upon the duly presented petition of any one hundred (100) qualified voters of Northampton County, to determine whether it be the will of the qualified voters of said county that they levy and cause to be collected annually, at the same time and in the same manner as the general county taxes are levied and collected, a special tax at a rate not to exceed five cents (5¢) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property in said Northampton County, to be known as an Industrial Development Tax, the funds therefrom, if the levy be authorized by the voters of Northampton County, to be used for the purpose of attracting new and diversified industries to Northampton County, and for the encouragement of new business and industrial ventures by local as well as foreign capital.

Sec. 2. There shall be no new registration of the voters of Northampton County for such election. The registration books shall be open for the registration of new voters of Northampton County at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, on the fourth Saturday before such election, and the said books shall be closed at sunset on the second Saturday before such election, The Saturday immediately before the election day shall be "Challenge Day". The registrar of each precinct of Northampton County shall be furnished with a registration book and it shall be his duty between the hours of 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, and sunset on each day during the period when the registration books are open, to keep open said books for the registration of new voters of Northampton County residing within such precinct and entitled to registration. On each Saturday during the period of registration, the registrar shall attend with his registration books at the polling place of his precinct between the hours of 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, and sunset, for the registration of voters.

Sec. 3. A notice of such registration of new voters shall be published in the newspaper circulated in Northampton County, once, not less than thirty days before and not more than forty days before the closing of the registration books, stating the hours

and days for registration. It shall not be necessary to specify in said notice the places of said registration, except that the said notice shall state that on each Saturday during the period of registration, each registrar of Northampton County will attend with his registration books at the polling place of his precinct, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, and sunset, for the registration of the voters.

Sec. 4. The registrars appointed for such election are directed to enter upon the registration books the names of any and all legal residents of said county, who are or could legally be enfranchised as qualified voters for regular general elections, not heretofore registered, and who may present themselves to be registered. In addition to registering such qualified persons who so present themselves during the specified hours of registration the said registrars are authorized and empowered during any interim period from 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, on the first set Saturday of registration to and inclusive of 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, on the fourth such Saturday, to see and contact at their homes or elsewhere any such qualified persons and to register them upon the registration books.

Sec. 5. The hours of such election on a date to be designated by the Board of County Commissioners of Northampton County, are fixed at 7:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, to 7:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. The said special election, if called, shall be under the control and supervision of the Northampton County Board of Elections, and at such special election said election board shall cause to be placed at each voting precinct in Northampton County a ballot box marked "Industrial Development Tax Election". At said election all voters of Northampton County who are duly qualified electors and who are duly registered may vote in said election. Each of said voters when he or she comes to the polling place to vote shall be supplied by the election officials with a ballot. Thereupon the question shall be stated in substantially the words "For Industrial Development Tax" and "Against Industrial Development Tax", which alternates shall appear separated from each other on one ballot containing opposite and to the left of each alternate, squares of appropriate size in one of which squares the voters may mark "X" to designate the voter's choice for or against such tax. Such ballots shall be printed on white paper, and each polling place in Northampton County shall be supplied with a sufficient number of ballots not later than the day before the election.

Sec. 6. The duly appointed judges and other election officials who are named and fixed by the Northampton County Board of Elections shall count the ballots so cast in such election and the results of the election shall be officially canvassed, certified and announced by the proper officials of Northampton County Board of Elections, according to the manner of canvassing, certifying and announcing the elections held under the general election laws of the State. Except as herein otherwise provided, the registration and election herein provided for shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the State as provided for local elections.

Sec. 7. If a majority of those voting in such election favor the levying of such a tax, the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County are authorized to levy such a tax at a rate not to exceed five cents (5¢) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed value of real and personal property taxable in Northampton County.

Sec. 8. If the majority of the qualified voters voting in such election favor the levying of such a tax, then and in that event, there is hereby created a commission to be known as the Economic Development Commission for Northampton County; such commission shall be composed of twelve members, to be named by the Northampton County Board of Commissioners; two members to be named from each of the County Commissioner Districts of Northampton County and two members to be named at large from Northampton County, one of whom shall be the chairman of the Northampton County Board of Commissioners who shall serve ex officio as a member of said commission. The terms of office of the members of the commission shall be three (3) years, and they shall serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified. All appointments for unexpired terms resulting from resignation, death or other causes shall be made by the Northampton County Board of Commissioners. The commission shall hold its first meeting within thirty (30) days after its appointment as provided in this Act, and the beginning date of all terms of office of the commissioners shall be the date on which the commission holds its first meeting. After the members of the commission shall have been appointed and at the time of the holding of the first meeting, they shall, by a majority vote, name and select from their membership their own chairman, vice chairman and secretary, and shall draw up and ratify their own bylaws and procedural rules and policies. The County Accountant of Northampton County shall have supervision of all funds administered by the commission whatsoever. Checks drawn by the commission shall be signed by the chairman of the commission, the secretary of the commission, and countersigned by the County Accountant of Northampton County who shall be custodian of all funds of the commission. No money, property or funds of the commission herein created shall be used directly or indirectly as a subsidy or investment in capital stock or capital assets in any business, industry or business venture.

Sec. 9. Under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Economic Development Commission of Northampton County there shall be set up a bureau, the purpose of which shall be to encourage new business and industrial development based on either local or foreign capital, in any and all ways which may be deemed advisable to the commission; that the commission shall have charge of the activities of this bureau, full supervision of its operation, and full responsibility for its actions; that this jurisdiction shall include employment of personnel for the bureau, supervision of its purchase and expense accounts, and administration of responsibility for all the tax funds which shall be turned over to the commission by county authorities from the industrial development tax and any and all other funds which may come into its hands. The commission shall be empowered to lease, rent, or purchase, or otherwise obtain suitable quarters and office space for an economic development bureau, to lease, rent, or purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, and other equipment, to purchase advertising space in periodicals which may be selected for that purpose, and to otherwise engage in any and all activities which shall, in its discretion, promote the business and industrial development and general economic welfare of Northampton County, and shall have full power to exercise any and all other proper authority in connection with its duties and not expressly mentioned herein.

Sec. 10. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 11. This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 26th day of April, 1961.