

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 872

Short Title: WNC Revitalization/Planning Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Metcalf; Carpenter, Carter, and Robinson.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

April 4, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC
3 DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH THE SMALL
4 TOWN REVITALIZATION AND COUNTY PLANNING PROGRAM.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Commerce the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)
8 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to enhance economic development in Western North
9 Carolina through the Small Town Revitalization and County Planning Program. The
10 Department shall establish and implement this program to encourage small
11 municipalities and county governments to work locally with small business, industry,
12 tourism, and other community organizations to develop collaborative programs focusing
13 on strategies that will lead to the revitalization of downtown areas and efforts by
14 counties to assess and plan for infrastructure and growth needs into and beyond the year
15 2002.

16 **SECTION 2.** Not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the total funds for the
17 program shall be used for small towns.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Department shall develop procedures for the
19 administration and distribution of funds allocated to the Small Town Revitalization and
20 County Planning Program under the following guidelines:

- 21 (1) Municipalities and counties must make application under procedures
22 established by the Department.
23 (2) Priority shall be given to small municipalities needing assistance with
24 downtown revitalization efforts.
25 (3) Priority shall be given to counties either with no organized planning
26 effort or with only fledgling programs.

- 1 (4) Priority shall be given to municipalities and counties that demonstrate
2 a strong willingness to involve the business, industry, and tourism
3 community in their proposed plan of work.
4 (5) Priority shall be given to counties and municipalities that match funds.
5 (6) Priority shall be given to counties and municipalities that demonstrate
6 high need according to Department of Commerce statistics and data.
7 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.