

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1417  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/26/05  
Third Edition Engrossed 6/1/05  
Senate Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 7/5/05  
Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee Substitute Adopted 7/20/06  
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Short Title: ED Regional Partnership Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT RELATING TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 158 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new sections to read:

**"§ 158-8.5. Annual reporting requirement.**

By February 15 of each year, the commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33 shall publish a report containing the information required by this section. As a condition on the receipt of State funds, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Regional Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional Partnership shall, by February 15 of each year, publish a report containing the information required by this section. The commissions and partnerships shall also submit a copy of the report to the Department of Commerce, the Office of State Budget and Management, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Economic Development Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly. The report shall include all of the following:

- (1) A summary of the preceding year's program activities, objectives, and accomplishments.
- (2) The preceding fiscal year's itemized expenditures of State funds.
- (3) A demonstration of how the commission's or partnership's regional economic development and marketing strategy aligns with the State's overall economic development and marketing strategies.
- (4) A demonstration of how the commission's or partnership's involvement in promotion activities has generated leads.

1           (5) The most recent audited annual financial statement regarding State  
2           funds.

3 **"§ 158-8.6. Uniform standards.**

4           The Department of Commerce, in consultation with the commissions created  
5 pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33, the Charlotte Regional  
6 Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional  
7 Partnership, shall develop uniform standards for the use of State funds related to  
8 accounting procedures, personnel practices, and purchasing and contracts procedures.  
9 The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33 shall  
10 follow these standards. As a condition on the receipt of State funds, the Charlotte  
11 Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle  
12 Regional Partnership shall follow these standards.

13 **"§ 158-8.7. Use of State funds.**

14           The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33,  
15 the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the  
16 Research Triangle Regional Partnership, are subject to all of the provisions of  
17 G.S. 143-6.2.

18 **"§ 158-8.8. Orientation for board members.**

19           The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33  
20 shall hold an orientation session for all newly appointed commission members. The  
21 orientation shall provide information on the duties and responsibilities of commission  
22 members and shall include information on the commission's policies and State law  
23 regarding conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and ethical behavior. At least once a  
24 year, each of these commissions shall distribute to all commission members information  
25 on the commission's policies and State law regarding conflicts of interest, financial  
26 disclosure, and ethical behavior."

27           **SECTION 2.** The Department of Commerce may hire a consultant to assist  
28 in the development of the uniform standards required by G.S. 158-8.6, as enacted by  
29 Section 1 of this act. As a condition on the receipt of State funds, the commissions  
30 created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33, the Charlotte Regional  
31 Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional  
32 Partnership, shall pay the costs of developing the uniform standards required by  
33 G.S. 158-8.6, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, in equal shares up to a maximum  
34 aggregate amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The Department of Commerce  
35 shall pay from funds available in its 2006-2007 budget any costs for developing the  
36 uniform standards in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

37           **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2006. The  
38 remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2006.