

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

**S**

**1**

**SENATE BILL 55**

Short Title: Rural Economic Development Center Funds. (Public)

---

Sponsors: Senators Dalton; Albertson, Apodaca, Berger of Franklin, Berger of Rockingham, Bingham, Boseman, Garrou, Garwood, Hartsell, Holloman, Hoyle, Jenkins, Kerr, Lucas, Malone, Nesbitt, Purcell, Rand, Snow, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Thomas, and Weinstein.

---

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

---

February 3, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE RURAL ECONOMIC  
2 DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO BE USED FOR ECONOMIC  
3 INFRASTRUCTURE.  
4

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 twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000)  
8 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for  
9 the 2006-2007 fiscal year to be allocated as follows:

10 (1) To continue the North Carolina Infrastructure Program. The purpose of  
11 the Program is to provide grants to local governments to construct  
12 critical water and wastewater facilities and to provide other  
13 infrastructure needs, including technology needs, to sites where these  
14 facilities will generate private job-creating investment. At least fifteen  
15 million dollars (\$15,000,000) of the funds appropriated in this section  
16 for each year of the biennium must be used to provide grants under this  
17 Program.

18 (2) To provide matching grants to local governments in distressed areas  
19 and equity investments in public-private ventures that will  
20 productively reuse vacant buildings, with priority given to towns with  
21 populations of less than 5,000.

22 (3) To provide research and demonstration grants.

23 The funds appropriated in this section shall be recurring funds.

24 **SECTION 2.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., may contract  
25 with other State agencies, constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina,  
26 and colleges within the North Carolina Community College System for certain aspects

1 of the Program, including design of Program guidelines and evaluation of Program  
2 results.

3           **SECTION 3.** During each year of the 2005-2007 biennium, the Rural  
4 Economic Development Center, Inc., may use up to four percent (4%) of the funds  
5 appropriated by this act to cover its expenses in administering the North Carolina  
6 Economic Infrastructure Program.

7           **SECTION 4.** No later than January 15 each year, the Rural Economic  
8 Development Center, Inc., shall submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative  
9 Commission on Governmental Operations concerning the progress of the North  
10 Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program.

11           **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.