

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 1446\***

Short Title: Econ. Infrastructure Program at Rural Center. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Daughtridge, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors); G. Allen, Dickson, Harrell, L. Johnson, LaRoque, Luebke, McComas, Owens, Tolson, Walker, B. Allen, L. Allen, Bowie, Carney, Farmer-Butterfield, Fox, Glazier, Goodwin, Gorman, Moore, Pate, and Warren.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 13, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS TO THE RURAL  
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO BE USED TO CREATE A NORTH  
3 CAROLINA ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.  
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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 fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000)  
8 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The funds shall be used to establish and implement the  
9 North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program. The Program shall consist of the  
10 following four areas of investment:

- 11 (1) To provide grants to local governments to construct critical water and  
12 wastewater facilities to sites where these facilities will generate private  
13 job-creating investment.
- 14 (2) To create a new lending program tailored specifically to the needs of  
15 small- and medium-size businesses that have the capacity to grow and  
16 create jobs.
- 17 (3) To provide matching grants to local governments in distressed areas  
18 and equity investments in public-private ventures that will  
19 productively reuse vacant buildings, with priority given to towns with  
20 a population of less than 5,000.
- 21 (4) To promote the diversification of North Carolina small farm  
22 businesses into value-added production and marketing and to increase  
23 opportunities in food and beverage manufacturing and distribution for  
24 small farm entrepreneurs.

25 **SECTION 2.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., may contract  
26 with other State agencies and constituent institutions of The University of North

1 Carolina for certain aspects of the program, including design of program guidelines and  
2 evaluation of program results.

3           **SECTION 3.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., may use up to  
4 five percent (5%) of the funds appropriated by this act to cover its expenses in  
5 administering the North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program.

6           **SECTION 4.** The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., shall report to  
7 the Joint Legislative Committee on Governmental Operations on a quarterly basis  
8 concerning the progress of the North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program. It must  
9 make its initial report on the program no later than January 15, 2005.

10           **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.