

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 740**

Short Title: Job Growth Accountability Act. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative C. Wilson.

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Referred to: Economic Growth and Community Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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March 27, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE  
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN THE FORMULATION OF THE  
4 STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND TO PROVIDE FOR  
5 GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE STATE'S  
6 EFFORTS TO CREATE JOBS FOR NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8       **SECTION 1.(a)** The General Assembly finds that the State has long  
9 recognized the need for a coordinated economic development program that  
10 encompasses all areas of the State and all activities, and includes long-range planning.  
11 Over the last 15 years its efforts to provide for such a program have included creating  
12 the Economic Development Board, mandating a government performance audit study,  
13 and expanding the responsibilities of the Board in light of the study and in light of  
14 continuous changes in the State's economic situation.

15       **SECTION 1.(b)** The General Assembly recognizes that economic  
16 development efforts on behalf of the State encompass a broad range of activities by  
17 various parties for the purpose of increasing and maintaining the State's economic  
18 vitality. It is especially important that a single entity oversee economic development  
19 efforts in the State to prevent duplication and promote efficiency and effectiveness.

20       **SECTION 1.(c)** The General Assembly has identified the Economic  
21 Development Board in the Department of Commerce as the economic development  
22 policy development and planning source to advise the legislature and the executive  
23 branch, to coordinate economic development efforts by various State agencies and by  
24 local governments and local development organizations, and to develop and evaluate  
25 annual long-range economic development plans.

26       **SECTION 1.(d)** The General Assembly recognizes that the responsibilities  
27 assigned to the Board are numerous and complex and that it has not always been  
28 possible for the legislature or the public to monitor the Board's efforts in carrying them

1 out, to evaluate its successes and failures, or to receive current information on  
2 procedures and programs.

3         **SECTION 2.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to evaluate the  
4 current law establishing procedures for coordinating State, local, and regional economic  
5 development efforts and consider ways in which the procedures could be improved to  
6 provide greater transparency and regular feedback and updates.

7         **SECTION 2.(b)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to evaluate the  
8 extent to which the long-range comprehensive plans developed by the Board have  
9 achieved their goals and have anticipated and addressed global changes such as the  
10 decline of tobacco as an economic force in this State and the exodus of manufacturers to  
11 other countries. It is the intent of the General Assembly to determine whether  
12 improvements to the planning procedure and structure could enhance the State's ability  
13 to anticipate and address these types of trends before the damage to the economy has  
14 occurred.

15         **SECTION 2.(c)** In carrying out these efforts, it is the intent of the General  
16 Assembly to consider staffing and funding issues for the Board, periodic reporting and  
17 publication of information, and a system for accountability for responsibilities assigned  
18 to various State and local entities.

19         **SECTION 3.** To implement the policies outlined in this act, it is the intent of  
20 the General Assembly to create a Joint Legislative Commission on Economic  
21 Development Oversight to provide a comprehensive and coordinated review of the  
22 procedures and programs currently in place, to make recommendations for  
23 improvements, and to provide ongoing monitoring on behalf of the legislature and the  
24 public.

25         **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.