

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 848

Short Title: Modify Utility Account-Eligible Areas. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hanes, Jeter, and R. Moore (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Finance.

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY WHAT AREAS MAY RECEIVE GRANTS FROM THE UTILITY
3 ACCOUNT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 143B-437.01 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 143B-437.01. Industrial Development Fund Utility Account.

7 (a) Creation and Purpose of Fund. – There is created in the Department of Commerce a
8 special account to be known as the Industrial Development Fund Utility Account ("Utility
9 Account") to provide funds to assist the local government units of the most economically
10 distressed ~~counties~~ areas in the State in creating jobs. The Department of Commerce shall adopt
11 rules providing for the administration of the program. Those rules shall include the following
12 provisions, which shall apply to each grant from the account:

13 (1) The funds shall be used in economically distressed areas for construction of
14 or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas, telecommunications,
15 high-speed broadband, electrical utility distribution lines or equipment, or
16 transportation infrastructure for existing or new or proposed buildings. To be
17 eligible for funding, the water, gas, telecommunications, high-speed
18 broadband, electrical utility lines or facilities, or transportation infrastructure
19 shall be located on the site of the building or, if not located on the site, shall
20 be directly related to the operation of the job creation activity. To be eligible
21 for funding, the sewer infrastructure shall be located on the site of the
22 building or, if not located on the site, shall be directly related to the
23 operation of the job creation activity, even if the sewer infrastructure is
24 located in a county other than the county in which the building is located.

25 (1a) The funds shall be used for projects located in economically distressed
26 ~~counties~~ areas except that the Secretary of Commerce may use up to one
27 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to provide emergency economic
28 development assistance in any county that is documented to be experiencing
29 a major economic dislocation.

30 ...
31 (a1) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

32 ...
33 (4) Economically distressed ~~county~~ areas. – Any of the following:

34 a. A county that is defined as a development tier one or two area under
35 G.S. 143B-437.08 after the adjustments of that section are applied.



- 1 b. An urban progress zone, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.09.
- 2 c. An agrarian growth zone, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.010.
- 3 "
- 4 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.