

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 283
Mar 4, 2025
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10100-Nif-12

Short Title: Small Business Investment Grant Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Reives.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO RENAME THE ONE NORTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNT
THE SMALL BUSINESS RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNT AND TO
CREATE A SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM WITHIN THE ONE
NORTH CAROLINA FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 143B-437.71 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-437.71. **One North Carolina Fund established as a special revenue fund.**

(a) Establishment. – The One North Carolina Fund is established as a special revenue fund in the Department of Commerce.

(b) Purposes. – Moneys in the One North Carolina Fund may only be allocated pursuant to this subsection. Moneys may be allocated to (i) local governments for use in connection with securing commitments for the recruitment, expansion, or retention of new and existing businesses and to businesses, (ii) the ~~One North Carolina Small Business Account~~ Small Business Research and Technology Account created pursuant to subsection (c) of this section in an amount not to exceed three million dollars ~~(\$3,000,000).~~ (\$3,000,000), and (iii) the Small Business Investment Grant Account created pursuant to subsection (d) of this section in an amount not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). Moneys in the One North Carolina Fund allocated to local governments under this subsection shall be used for the following purposes only:

- (1) Installation or purchase of equipment.
- (2) Structural repairs, improvements, or renovations to existing buildings to be used for expansion.
- (3) Construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas, or electric utility distribution lines or equipment for existing buildings.
- (4) Construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas, or electric utility distribution lines or equipment for new or proposed buildings to be used for manufacturing and industrial operations.
- (5) Any other purposes specifically provided by an act of the General Assembly.

(b1) Awards. – The amounts committed in Governor's Letters issued in a single fiscal year may not exceed seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000). Of the amount authorized in this subsection, three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is reserved for agreements with local governments located in development tier three areas, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08, with total employment of 115,000 or less, using the data specified in G.S. 143B-437.52(c)(3).

(c) Small Business Research and Technology Account. – There is created in the One North Carolina Fund a special account, the ~~One North Carolina Small Business Account~~, Small Business Research and Technology Account, to be used for the North Carolina SBIR/STTR



1 Incentive Program and the North Carolina SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Program, as specified in
2 Part 2I of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.

3 (d) Small Business Investment Grant Account. – There is created in the One North
4 Carolina Fund a special account, the Small Business Investment Grant Account (SBIG), to be
5 used to provide competitive grants to eligible small businesses to offset costs associated with
6 establishing a new facility or expanding an existing facility in the State, in accordance with this
7 subsection. The Department shall administer the program and shall prioritize grants to recipients
8 that the Department determines will have the greatest net economic benefit at the regional and
9 State levels. Grants to a recipient under this subsection may not exceed (i) five hundred thousand
10 dollars (\$500,000) in any single calendar year, (ii) two million five hundred thousand dollars
11 (\$2,500,000) total, and (iii) a term of distribution greater than five years. An eligible small
12 business is a business that meets all of the following requirements:

- 13 (1) Has 250 or fewer full-time employees, including full-time equivalents or has
14 less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in annual gross revenue.
15 (2) Will invest at least ten million dollars (\$10,000,000), but not more than thirty
16 million dollars (\$30,000,000) in private funds, and hire not more than 250 new
17 employees, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.51, in this State.
18 (3) Pays employees an average weekly wage that is at least equal to one hundred
19 ten percent (110%) of the average wage for all insured private employers in
20 the county."

21 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 143B-437.80(a) reads as rewritten:

22 "(a) Program. – There is established the North Carolina SBIR/STTR Incentive Program
23 to be administered by the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation. In order
24 to foster job creation and economic development throughout the State, the Board may provide
25 grants to eligible businesses to offset costs associated with applying for federal Small Business
26 Innovative Research (SBIR) grants or Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR)
27 grants. The grants shall be paid from the ~~One North Carolina Small Business Account~~ Small
28 Business Research and Technology Account established in G.S. 143B-437.71."

29 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 143B-437.83 reads as rewritten:

30 "**§ 143B-437.83. Reports.**

31 The Department of Commerce shall publish a report on the use of funds in the ~~One North~~
32 ~~Carolina Small Business Account~~ Small Business Research and Technology Account on
33 September 1 of each year until all funds have been expended. The report shall contain information
34 on the disbursement and use of funds allocated under the One North Carolina Small Business
35 Program. The report must be submitted to the following:

36 "

37 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.