

# FAILED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. A25  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S257-ANBa-21 [v.5]

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Amends Title [NO]  
Fifth Edition

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Representative Logan

moves to amend the bill on page 299, lines 43-44. by inserting the following between the lines:

**"NORTH CAROLINA TECHNOLOGY COALITIONS STRATEGIC SUPPORT FUND**

**SECTION 11.9.(a)** Notwithstanding the Committee Report as described in Section 45.2 of this act, the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds appropriated for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the Tobacco Trust Fund shall instead be used as nonrecurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund in the Department of Commerce, as enacted by this section.

**SECTION 11.9.(b)** Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 143B-437.84. The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund.**

**(a) Fund; Purposes.** – The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund is established as a special fund in the Department of Commerce. The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation shall be responsible for administering grants awarded by the Department from the Fund with oversight from the Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation. Grants shall be for the purpose of encouraging regional technology-based economic growth by fostering collaboration throughout a technology coalition and aligning State resource investment to scale critical and secure supply chains.

**(b) Definitions.** – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Cost match.** – Financial or in-kind resources provided through the Fund to a recipient, defined by a ratio of funding pursued or granted by non-State sources to that provided by the Fund.
- (2) Department.** – The Department of Commerce.
- (3) Fund.** – The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund established in this section.
- (4) Office.** – The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- (5) Recipient.** – An organization supported by the Fund that represents a technology coalition. Recipients may be an industry alliance, nonprofit organization, local government, academic institution, or State agency.
- (6) Regional area.** – Area of service by the technology coalition and the focus of economic development metric analysis for a technology-based industry



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sector. For purposes of the Fund, a regional area must be defined within the boundaries of the State.

(7) Technology coalition. – A regional network of organizations, such as private sector, academic, nonprofit, and government institutions, in a network of formal and informal relationships that contribute to technological and economic development in a technology-based industry sector, such as (i) artificial intelligence, (ii) high-performance computing and semiconductors, (iii) quantum science and technology, (iv) advanced manufacturing, (v) disaster prevention, (vi) advanced communications technology, (vii) cybersecurity, (viii) biotechnology, (ix) advanced energy technology, and (x) material science.

(c) Eligibility. – To be eligible for a grant from the Fund, all of the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The recipient must have its principal place of operation in the State.
- (2) The recipient must certify that (i) the grant will be used for allowable purposes solely within the State and (ii) it will retain its principal place of operation in the State for as long as it receives grant money from the Fund or the term required by the Office, whichever is longer.
- (3) The recipient applies under oath, to, and on a form prescribed by the Office that includes all of the following:
  - a. The name of the business, the form of organization under which it is operated, and the names and addresses of the principals or management of the business.
  - b. A description of how a grant from the Fund will aid the technology coalition to advance its goals.
  - c. Justifications for the use of Fund resources for intended economic impact to a regional area.
  - d. Any other information necessary for the Office to evaluate the application.
- (4) The recipient does not apply for or receive concurrent funding support from other sources duplicating the purposes of the Fund.
- (5) The recipient uses the grant from the Fund only for the activities listed in the application and for which the grant was awarded.

(d) Use. – Other than administrative funds retained by the Department in an amount equal to the greater of (i) one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) or (ii) two percent (2%) of the appropriation to the Fund for the year, the Department shall award distributions from the Fund based on strategic and tactical programmatic needs solely for the following:

- (1) Coalition infrastructure support, including (i) funding recipients to provide external support or funding to State agencies or divisions of State agencies to conduct market and economic analyses; (ii) developing workforce training programs; (iii) supporting private, foundational, and federal grant identification and submission; and (iv) sponsoring of technology coalition knowledge-sharing events.

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(2) Coalition cost match allowances to provide financial or in-kind cost matching to recipients in support of non-State funding, including private, foundational, and federal funding that drives the economic growth and maturation of a technology industry in a regional area. The Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation may (i) set a cap on the cost match amount and the number of awards per recipient, (ii) require applicants to provide matching funds or in-kind support for a grant from the Fund, and (iii) provide prioritization in how the Fund may be used by the recipient.

(e) Administration. – The Department shall develop guidelines related to the administration of the Fund. At least 20 days before the effective date of any guidelines or nontechnical amendments to guidelines, the Department must publish the proposed guidelines on the Department's website and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed guidelines. In addition, the Department must accept oral and written comments on the proposed guidelines during the 15 business days beginning on the first day that the Department has completed these notifications. For purposes of this section, a technical amendment is (i) an amendment that corrects a spelling or grammatical error or (ii) an amendment that makes a clarification based on public comment and could have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately preceded the public comment."

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ FAILED \_\_\_\_\_ TABLED \_\_\_\_\_

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