



HOUSE BILL 243: Local Mod: Economic Development Commissions

2015-2016 General Assembly

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| Committee: House Local Government | Date: March 26, 2015 |
| Introduced by: Rep. West | Prepared by: Kelly Tornow |
| Analysis of: First Edition | Committee Counsel |

SUMMARY: *House Bill 243 would allow the Macon County Economic Development Commission to increase its membership to a maximum of twelve members.*

CURRENT LAW: Article 2 of Chapter 158 of the General Statutes authorizes the governing body of any municipality or the board of county commissioners of any county to create an economic development commission for that municipality or county. An economic development commission can consist of between three and nine members, and the terms and compensation of its members are fixed by the governing body.

An economic development commission is authorized to:

- Receive from any municipal, county, joint, or regional planning board or commission with jurisdiction within its area an economic development program for part or all of the area.
- Formulate projects for carrying out an economic development program through attraction of new industries, encouragement of existing industries, encouragement of agricultural development, encouragement of new business and industrial ventures by local as well as foreign capital, and other activities of a similar nature.
- Conduct industrial surveys as needed, advertise in periodicals or other communications media, furnish advice and assistance to business and industrial prospects which may locate in its area, furnish advice and assistance to existing businesses and industries, furnish advice and assistance to persons seeking to establish new businesses or industries, and engage in related activities.
- Encourage the formation of private business development corporations or associations which may carry out such projects as securing and preparing sites for industrial development, constructing industrial buildings, or rendering financial or managerial assistance to businesses and industries; and furnish advice and assistance to such corporations or associations.
- Use grant funds to make loans for purposes permitted by the federal government, by the grant agreement and in furtherance of economic development.

This bill would apply to the economic development commission for Macon County only.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 243 would increase the maximum number of members allowed on the Macon County Economic Development Commission from nine to twelve.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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