



2023-2024 General Assembly

# SENATE BILL 743: The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 - Part II, Sec. 4C.3: Golden Leaf - Hurricane Helene Impacted Business Bridge Loans

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	December 19, 2024
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Aaron McGlothlin Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Sec. 4C.3 of S.L. 2024-53		

**OVERVIEW:** Section 4C.3 of S.L. 2024-53 allocates \$50 million in nonrecurring funds from the Helene Fund to Golden L.E.A.F., Inc. to administer a program to make bridge loans to qualifying businesses suffering economic distress as a result of Hurricane Helene. This section establishes various requirements related to the bridge loan program, including eligibility, appropriate use of funds, application procedures, reversion and repayment deadlines, and reporting requirements.

*This section became effective October 25, 2024, and applies to bridge loans made using funds allocated by this section that occur on or after that date.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 4C.3** allocates \$50 million in nonrecurring funds from the Helene Fund to Golden L.E.A.F., Inc. to administer a program to make bridge loans to qualifying businesses suffering economic distress as a result of Hurricane Helene.

To qualify for a bridge loan under this program, a business must: (i) have a physical presence in the State located within the affected area; (ii) face economic distress as a result of Hurricane Helene; and (iii) need a bridge loan under this program to meet its ordinary and necessary financial obligations, which could not otherwise be met due directly to the economic distress imposed upon the business by Hurricane Helene.

A qualifying business receiving a bridge loan under this program must certify that it will use all loan proceeds for purposes consistent with the allowable uses of loan proceeds under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Business Physical Disaster Loan program of the Small Business Administration.

Loans provided under this program are limited to no more than \$100,000 per qualifying business, for a term not to extend beyond June 30, 2030.

The awarding of new loans using State funds allocated to this program must cease by October 31, 2028.

Golden LEAF must submit a report on the administration of this loan program to the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division every six months beginning December 15, 2025. This duty to report ceases when Golden LEAF has remitted the entirety of the net loan funds to the Office of State Budget and Management.

Kara McCraw  
Director



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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section became effective October 25, 2024, and applies to bridge loans made using funds allocated by this section that occur on or after that date.