

April 14, 1999

**S 938. ESCHEAT FUNDS INVESTMENTS.** *TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE TREASURER TO INVEST UP TO THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS OF THE ESCHEAT FUND IN NONPROFIT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATIONS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR REINVESTMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FUNDS THAT WOULD FINANCE ENTREPRENEURIAL FIRMS IN RURAL COUNTIES AND DEVELOPMENT ZONES.* Amends GS 147-69.2(b) as title indicates. Specifies conditions for investing Escheat Fund assets in obligations of nonprofit economic opportunity corporations. Adds new GS 143B-437.06 to authorize creation and certification of nonprofit economic opportunity corporations. Nonprofit economic opportunity corporations must be governed by nine-member board of directors (five members appointed by Governor, two appointed by Speaker of House, and two appointed by Senate President Pro Tem). Sec'y of Commerce must certify nonprofit economic opportunity corporations and approve or disapprove proposed investments from Escheat Fund in these nonprofit corporations. Provides that public funds may be invested only in private sector investments funds that reinvest public funds in entrepreneurial firms starting up in, expanding in, or relocating to rural counties (density of fewer than 200 people per square mile under 1990 census) or developments zones (defined in GS 105-129.2). Private sector investment funds will be selected on competitive basis. Sec'y of Commerce must report to Joint Legislative Comm'n on Gov't Operations and Fiscal Research Div'n annual by Jan. 15 on investments, activities, and accomplishments of program.

**Intro. by Kerr.**

Held as filed

GS 147, 143B