Amends Title [NO]

Seventh Edition

Date ______________________, 2017

Representative C. Graham

moves to amend the bill on page 239, lines 32-33, by inserting between the lines the following language to read:

"NC READY SITES PROGRAM

SECTION 15.7A.(a) Program. – There is created within the Department of Commerce the NC Ready Sites Fund (Fund), a special fund. Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Fund, the Department of Commerce shall use five million dollars ($5,000,000) in the 2017-2018 fiscal year for the assistance program described in this section, as governed by agreements entered into by the Department of Commerce.

SECTION 15.7A.(b) Purposes. – Moneys in the NC Ready Sites Program shall assist local government units to fund improvement of public infrastructure that serves publicly owned or publicly controlled industrial sites that have the potential to attract employers that can create jobs and have a significant positive effect on the local, regional, and state economies.

SECTION 15.7A.(c) Program Guidelines. - The Department shall develop guidelines related to the administration of this program. At least 20 days before the effective date of any guidelines or nontechnical amendments to the guidelines, the Department shall publish the proposed guidelines on the Department’s Web site and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed guidelines. In addition, the Department shall 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. Guidelines adopted under this section shall not be subject to the requirements of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. The guidelines shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

(1) The applicant shall be a local unit of government.

(2) The site to be served by the public infrastructure shall be publicly-owned or publicly-controlled.

(3) The site shall have a minimum size of 50 contiguous acres.

(4) There shall be evidence of appropriate local financial support for site development, which include but is not limited to site acquisition, development costs, or infrastructure improvements.

(5) There shall be evidence of recent private sector interest in developing an industrial project on the site.

(6) There shall be evidence of a well thought-out strategy to identify and market the site to appropriate private sector businesses.
(7) Improvements that would be funded shall result in a site that is ready for development; funds are to be used to eliminate or reduce the infrastructure gap and time needed to make the site development ready.

(8) Funds will only be utilized for public infrastructure improvements including new or existing water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, high-speed broadband, electrical utility distribution lines or equipment, or transportation infrastructure.

SECTION 15.7A.(d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this act to the contrary, of the funds transferred from the Utility Account (24609-2568) to the Rural Economic Development Division for Rural Grants (14600-1534) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of one million four hundred ninety thousand dollars ($1,490,000) shall be transferred to the NC Ready Sites Fund created in this section.

SECTION 15.7A.(e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this act to the contrary, the nonrecurring appropriation for Rural Grants for the 2017-2018 fiscal year shall be reduced by three million five hundred ten thousand dollars ($3,510,000) and the revised net appropriation for the NC Ready Sites Fund created by this section shall be increased by three million five hundred ten thousand dollars ($3,510,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year; and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

The official copy of this document, with signatures and vote information, is available in the House Principal Clerk's Office.