



1 Carolina as it employed in North Carolina for the pay period ending on or  
2 about February 28, 2020.

3 (2) Its sales for the COVID-19 period are at least ten percent (10%) below its sales  
4 for the same period in the preceding calendar year.

5 (3) It did not participate in the Paycheck Protection Program or the Mainstreet  
6 Loan Program.

7 **SECTION 3.(c)** Maximum Grant Amount. – The grant amount may be up to two  
8 months of the business's average monthly payroll costs from the last year plus an additional  
9 twenty-five percent (25%) of that amount. The grant amount may not exceed five hundred  
10 thousand dollars (\$500,000).

11 **SECTION 3.(d)** Grant Program Limit. – The grants will be allocated on a first-come,  
12 first-served basis and are subject to the availability of funds. The Committee's grant  
13 determinations are final.

14 **SECTION 3.(e)** Application. – A business must apply to the Economic Investment  
15 Committee for a grant on a form prescribed by the Committee and must include any supporting  
16 documentation required by the Committee.

17 **SECTION 3.(f)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

18 (1) Business. – An entity subject to income tax under Article 4 of Chapter 105 of  
19 the General Statutes.

20 (2) CARES Act. – The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
21 Act, P.L. 116-136.

22 (3) COVID-19 period. – The period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on  
23 May 31, 2020.

24 (4) Economic Investment Committee. – Defined in G.S. 143B-437.51.

25 (5) Full-time employee. – Defined in G.S. 143B-437.51.

26 (6) Mainstreet Loan Program. – Defined in Section 4027 of the CARES Act.

27 (7) Paycheck Protection Program. – Defined in Sections 1102 and 1106 of the  
28 CARES Act.

29 (8) Payroll costs. – Same meaning as defined for purposes of the Paycheck  
30 Protection Program, including the one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000)  
31 annualized cap amount for each employee.

32 (9) Sales. – Defined in G.S. 105-130.4.

33 **SECTION 3.(g)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to  
34 the Department of Commerce fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to be used for the COVID-19  
35 Job Retention Program, established under this section. Any amount not expended under this  
36 section by December 30, 2020, is transferred to the COVID-19 Increased Investment in North  
37 Carolina Program, established under Section 4 of this act, to be used for grants under that  
38 program.

39 **SECTION 4.(a)** Increased Investment Program. – There is created the COVID-19  
40 Increased Investment in North Carolina Program to be administered by the Economic Investment  
41 Committee. The Committee may provide a grant to a business that increases its investment in the  
42 State to help the economy of the State recover from the economic losses sustained during and  
43 after the COVID-19 pandemic. This program recognizes the national initiative and also facilitates  
44 the repatriation of manufacturing to North Carolina.

45 **SECTION 4.(b)** Definitions. – The definitions in Section 3 of this act apply to this  
46 section, except that the term "business" is defined as a corporation subject to franchise tax under  
47 Article 3 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes.

48 **SECTION 4.(c)** Investment. – A business is eligible for a grant under this section if  
49 the business increases its actual investment in tangible property in this State from the previous  
50 taxable year, as determined under G.S. 105-122(d)(3). The amount of the increase attributable to

1 the investment, as determined under this subsection, is the increased investment amount for  
2 purposes of this section.

3 **SECTION 4.(d)** Grant Amount. – The maximum grant amount available to a  
4 business is equal to five times the increased investment amount determined under subsection (c)  
5 of this section multiplied by fifteen hundredths of one percent (0.15%). The grant amount is  
6 payable to the business in five equal installments over a five-year period.

7 **SECTION 4.(e)** Grant Program Limit. – The grants will be allocated on a first-come,  
8 first-served basis and are subject to the availability of funds. The Committee's grant  
9 determinations are final.

10 **SECTION 4.(f)** Application. – A business must apply to the Economic Investment  
11 Committee for a grant on a form prescribed by the Committee and must include any supporting  
12 documentation required by the Committee.

13 **SECTION 4.(g)** Forfeiture. – A grant recipient must agree to maintain operations in  
14 the State for the term of the grant. If a business receiving a grant fails to comply with this  
15 condition, the Committee shall immediately terminate the grant agreement and act to recapture  
16 any grant funds disbursed in any year. The provisions of G.S. 143B-437.59 apply to this section.

17 **SECTION 4.(h)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to  
18 the Department of Commerce fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to be used for the COVID-19  
19 Increased Investment Program, established under this section. Any amount not committed to  
20 satisfy grant obligations under this section by December 30, 2022, is transferred to the COVID-19  
21 Local Government New Infrastructure Program, established under Section 5 of this act, to be  
22 used as provided under Section 5 of this act.

23 **SECTION 5.(a)** Local Government New Infrastructure Program. – There is created  
24 the COVID-19 Local Government New Infrastructure Program to expedite the recovery of the  
25 State from the economic losses sustained during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program  
26 will be administered in accordance with Part 2H of Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General  
27 Statutes, the One North Carolina Fund, with the exception that no local match is required.

28 **SECTION 5.(b)** Grant Program Limit. – The grants committed under this Program  
29 may not exceed the amount of funds available under subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

30 **SECTION 5.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
31 Commerce one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) to be allocated as follows:

- 32 (1) Up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) may, upon the recommendation of the  
33 Economic Investment Committee, be allocated to one or more of the eight  
34 prosperity zones created under G.S. 143B-28.1. The maximum amount that  
35 may be allocated to any one prosperity zone is seven hundred fifty thousand  
36 dollars (\$750,000), and the funds may only be used as a match to receive  
37 federal funds for economic development in those zones.
- 38 (2) The remainder of the funds appropriated by this subsection are to be used for  
39 the COVID-19 Local Government New Infrastructure Program, established  
40 under this section.

41 **SECTION 6.** The Department of Commerce is directed to notify the Office for  
42 Historically Underutilized Businesses, Department of Administration, as soon as practicable  
43 about the programs created under this act. The Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses,  
44 Department of Administration, is directed to identify minority-owned businesses that may be  
45 eligible to apply for the grants provided by these programs and to inform and educate those  
46 businesses as soon as practicable so they may have the opportunity to access the grants provided  
47 under these programs.

48 **SECTION 7.** The Economic Investment Committee must report to the Joint  
49 Legislative Economic Development Oversight Committee by January 1, 2021, on the number of  
50 grants awarded under the programs created by this act, the amount of the grants awarded, and the  
51 percentage of grants awarded to historically underutilized businesses.

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**SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law.