

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 361  
Mar 10, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30173-NOa-4

Short Title: Funds to Fight Deed and Title Fraud.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Reives.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES  
3 TO PREVENT AND DETER DEED AND TITLE FRAUD.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
6 General Fund to the Department of the Secretary of State the sum of one million eight hundred  
7 thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used in  
8 collaboration with the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds to provide antifraud  
9 training for employees of county register of deeds offices. The Department of the Secretary of  
10 State, in conjunction with the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds, may use an  
11 amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated in this section for  
12 administrative costs.

13 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
14 General Fund to the Department of Justice the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)  
15 in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to create and launch a statewide  
16 public awareness campaign on fraud relating to real property.

17 **SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
18 General Fund to the Department of Information Technology the sum of thirty million dollars  
19 (\$30,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to provide  
20 need-based grants to the county register of deeds offices, said grants to be used in accordance  
21 with this section. The Department of Information Technology may award grants to the county  
22 register of deeds offices for a total amount not exceeding forty percent (40%) of the funds  
23 appropriated in this section to be used by the county register of deeds offices to purchase scanning  
24 equipment and provide for the digitization and storing of records kept by that office, including,  
25 but not limited to, identification cards, passports, and other forms of identification. The  
26 Department of Information Technology may award grants to the county register of deeds offices  
27 for a total amount not exceeding fifteen percent (15%) of the funds appropriated in this section  
28 to be used by the county register of deeds offices for the purchase of software upgrades. The  
29 Department of Information Technology may award grants to the county register of deeds offices  
30 for a total amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated in this section to be  
31 used by the county register of deeds offices to procure cloud storage and backup. The Department  
32 of Information Technology may award grants to the county register of deeds offices for a total  
33 amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated in this section to be used by  
34 the county register of deeds offices for the purpose of enhancing the digital security of those  
35 offices. The Department of Information Technology may award grants to the county register of  
36 deeds offices for a total amount not exceeding eight percent (8%) of the funds appropriated in



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1 this section to be used by the county register of deeds offices for the purpose of training staff.  
2 The Department of Information Technology may award grants to the county register of deeds  
3 offices for a total amount not exceeding fifteen percent (15%) of the funds appropriated in this  
4 section to be used by the county register of deeds offices for network and hardware  
5 improvements, including network improvements that would allow for better communication or  
6 integration with the networks and systems maintained by the Secretary of State's Office and  
7 municipal tax offices. The Department of Information Technology may use an amount not  
8 exceeding two percent (2%) of the funds appropriated in this section for administrative costs.  
9 The Department of Information Technology shall develop criteria and an application process for  
10 the grants funded by this section.

11           **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
12 General Fund to the Department of Information Technology the sum of one million dollars  
13 (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to provide  
14 need-based grants to county register of deeds offices that do not have a fraud detection alert  
15 system in place as of the effective date of this section. The Department of Information  
16 Technology shall develop a process by which county register of deeds offices may apply for the  
17 grants funded by this section.

18           **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.