

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE BILL 1350*

Short Title: Military Business Center.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 27, 2004

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
3 STATEWIDE MILITARY BUSINESS CENTER AND A HOMELAND
4 SECURITY BUSINESS INCUBATOR.

5 Whereas, North Carolina is home to five major military installations, two of
6 which are among the three largest in the nation; and

7 Whereas, these five military installations directly employ over 113,000
8 people in North Carolina and have an annual payroll in excess of three billion three
9 hundred million dollars; and

10 Whereas, the military has a direct annual economic impact in the State of
11 over seven billion four hundred million dollars; and

12 Whereas, North Carolina has the third largest active-duty military population
13 in the nation; and

14 Whereas, although the State is home to huge military presence, it obtains
15 fewer military procurement contracts than the vast majority of states; and

16 Whereas, the military is undergoing its largest realignment in over a decade
17 and is looking to streamline operations; Now, therefore;
18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

19 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Fayetteville
20 Technical Community College the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the
21 2004-2005 fiscal year for the development and operation of a Military Business Center.
22 The Military Business Center shall provide services to residents and businesses
23 throughout the State. Moneys appropriated under this section shall be used for the
24 following activities:

- 25 (1) The development and operation of a statewide business assistance
26 center. The purpose of the business assistance center is to serve as a
27 coordinator and facilitator for small- and medium-sized businesses
28 throughout the State seeking to win and complete military contracts.
29 Activities of the business assistance center shall include:

- 1 a. Training and mentoring eligible businesses on effectively
2 marketing their products and services to military clients and
3 contracting offices.
- 4 b. Assisting eligible businesses with any required accreditations
5 and qualifications for government contracting.
- 6 c. Teaching eligible businesses about federal set-aside programs
7 and how to take advantage of these programs directly or
8 through partnering with other eligible businesses.
- 9 d. Training and assisting clients with the registration, proposal
10 development and bidding processes related to military
11 contracts.
- 12 e. Training eligible businesses on legal and regulatory
13 compliance.
- 14 f. Designing and implementing mentoring programs to facilitate
15 the development of interrelationships between eligible
16 businesses.
- 17 g. Forecasting the need for and assisting eligible businesses in
18 obtaining advanced certifications and accreditations and
19 advanced manufacturing skills and technologies.
- 20 h. Assisting eligible businesses in advising military clients on
21 retaining project funding.
- 22 i. Working with Small Business Centers throughout the State to
23 carry out these activities on a statewide basis.
- 24 (2) The development and maintenance of an Internet-based system to
25 match the knowledge, skills, and abilities of active-duty military
26 personnel, veterans, and their families throughout the State with the
27 needs of North Carolina businesses.
- 28 (3) The study of community resources and existing business capacity to
29 meet the current and future needs of the military and the development
30 of proposals for further developing community resources and
31 developing or recruiting new businesses to meet those needs.
- 32 (4) The marketing of the services provided by the Military Business
33 Center.
- 34 (5) The planning and implementation of the development of an industrial
35 park to house military contractors.

36 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North
37 Carolina Electronics and Information Technologies Association the sum of two hundred
38 thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year to develop, in conjunction
39 with MCNC, a proposal for the development and operation of a homeland security
40 business incubator. The North Carolina Electronics and Information Technologies
41 Association shall make a report on this proposal to the 2005 General Assembly no later
42 than February 28, 2005.

43 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 66-58(c)(3a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
44 read:

1 "(3b) The operation of a military business center by a community college.
2 For the purposes of this subdivision, the term 'military business center'
3 means a facility that serves to coordinate and facilitate interactions
4 between the United States Armed Forces; military personnel, veterans,
5 and their families; and private businesses."

6 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.