## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

## **SENATE BILL 902**

Short Title:	Regional Partnership Vision Plan Funds.	(Publi
Sponsors:	Senators Soles; and Jones.	

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

## March 20, 2007

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE STATE'S SEVEN REGIONAL
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR
4 VISION PLANS.

5 Whereas, North Carolina's seven regional economic development 6 partnerships are successfully pursuing their mandated goals of attracting new industries, 7 encouraging existing industries, encouraging agricultural development, effecting 8 regional workforce solutions, and encouraging new business and industrial ventures by 9 local as well as foreign capital; and

Whereas, the seven regional economic development partnerships work successfully with local and State economic development professionals, county and municipal government leaders, universities and community colleges, and businesses by providing research assistance, technical support, strategic planning, marketing and promotional support, and product development guidance that facilitate the arrival and creation of businesses and industrial investment; and

Whereas, the regional economic development partnerships foster regionalism
in economic development that assures that every North Carolina community, regardless
of its location or financial resources, has access to high-quality strategic planning,
marketing, project management, and technical assistance; and

Whereas, through its regional economic development partnerships, the State gives all 100 of its counties, including its poorest and most remote counties, an opportunity to succeed in the global economy; and

Whereas, the seven regional economic development partnerships serve as catalysts to economic development in some of North Carolina's most distressed regions by helping to grow existing small businesses, bringing new kinds of businesses into rural communities and regions, stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship, and creating new jobs; and

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1 Whereas, each of the seven regional economic development partnerships has 2 invested significant time and energy to develop cluster-based vision plans and to 3 establish strategies for implementing these plans; and

Whereas, the regional economic development partnerships' vision plans have proven effective as a means for readying North Carolina communities for success in a knowledge-driven global economy; Now, therefore,

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the 9 Department of Commerce the sum of two million one hundred thousand dollars 10 (\$2,100,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to be allocated to the seven Regional 11 Economic Development Commissions for their regional economic development 12 partnerships. Each of the seven regional economic development partnerships shall 13 receive three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) during the 2007-2008 fiscal year to 14 implement its vision plan.

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**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.