GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH30195-LM-83A* (3/5)

Short Title:	WOW e-CDC/Funds.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Spear.	
Referred to:		

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO WOW E-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION TO CONTINUE AS THE DESIGNATED TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCE CENTER FOR GRASSROOTS EFFORTS IN SOME OF THE STATE'S
NORTHEASTERN COUNTIES AND TO SUPPORT AND MENTOR SIMILAR
EFFORTS IN SOME WESTERN COUNTIES.

7 Whereas, northeastern North Carolina is the State's most economically distressed 8 region with 11 Tier 1 counties, over 30 municipalities that have less than 1,500 people, and 9 many communities that need assistance to participate in the State's technology driven economy; 10 and

11 Whereas, many of the communities in northeastern and western North Carolina do 12 not have the resources to address technology issues, including digital literacy and the 13 availability of affordable broadband; and

Whereas, many of these communities lack public access to computers and theInternet because of the absence of broadband infrastructure; and

Whereas, the lack of broadband, public access to computers and the Internet, and the
 lack of assistance to address technology-related issues negatively impacts education, economic
 development, and the quality of life in northeastern North Carolina; and

Whereas, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will make federal funding
 available through direct grants from the National Telecommunications and Information
 Administration to eligible organizations for broadband deployment, public access to computers,
 and digital literacy, and to grassroots technology centers; and

Whereas, Windows on the World e-Community Development Corporation (WOW 23 24 e-CDC) has been involved in efforts to provide access to computers, the Internet, and 25 affordable broadband in underserved areas of the State, including: (i) distributing surplus computers to schools, faith-based organizations, and low-wealth families in northeastern North 26 27 Carolina; (ii) completing the only independent, verifiable, and transparent 21-county broadband 28 accessibility study in the State; (iii) developing an online news service for and about northeastern North Carolina; (iv) developing public access points in several communities where 29 30 there is available broadband infrastructure; and (v) applying for and receiving a \$100,000 USDA grant for the purpose of establishing broadband in critical facilities in four northeastern 31 32 counties; Now, therefore,

33 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

34 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of 35 Commerce the sum of five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal



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1	year and the sum of five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal				
2	year for WOW e-CDC. The funds shall be used by WOW e-CDC as follows:				
3	1.	\$200,000 for operation of the Windows on the World Techno	ology Center.		
4	2.	\$200,000 for providing technical assistance to eligible	e applicants in		
5		northeastern North Carolina applying for federal grant f	funds under the		
6		American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide great	er access to and		
7		use of broadband technology; acquisition and distribut	-		
8		computers in low-wealth communities; operation of the onli	ne news service		
9		for and about northeastern North Carolina; providing a s	site for distance		
10		learning; and supporting efforts of the WOW West Techn	ology Resource		
11		Center.			
12	3.	\$50,000 for operation of the WOW e-CDC Internet service p	rovider.		
13	4.	\$100,000 to fund the activities of WOW e-WEST,	which provides		
14		technology resource services to Yancey, Madison, Avery	v, Mitchell, and		
15		McDowell Counties, including providing technical assista	nce for eligible		
16		applicants in these counties; establishing a western	North Carolina		
17		Technology Resource Center; establishing public access j	-		
18		computers and broadband technology in western North Caro			
19		site for distance learning; and distributing surplus compu	aters within the		
20		counties.			
21	SECT	TON 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.			