A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO INVEST IN RURAL NORTH CAROLINA AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS.
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

MOBILE DMV FOR COUNTIES WITHOUT DMV OFFICES

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) the sum of two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) in recurring funds for each fiscal year of the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium for the purpose of providing mobile DMV services in tier one counties that do not have a fixed DMV site.

RURAL BROADBAND

SECTION 2.(a) The Department of Information Technology (DIT), through its Office of Digital Infrastructure, and with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Administration, the Department of Commerce, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, shall develop a State broadband plan to ensure that all citizens of North Carolina have access to broadband capability. The plan shall include the following components:

(1) An analysis of the most effective and efficient mechanisms for ensuring broadband access by all citizens of the State.
(2) A detailed strategy for achieving affordability of such service and maximum utilization of broadband infrastructure and service by the citizens of the State.
(3) An evaluation of the status of deployment of broadband service, including a survey of projects and programs undertaken across the State by commercial broadband providers, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations.
(4) A plan for use of broadband infrastructure and services in advancing consumer welfare, civic participation, public safety and homeland security, community development, health care delivery, energy independence and efficiency, education, worker training, private sector investment, entrepreneurial activity, job creation, and economic growth.

SECTION 2.(b) DIT shall report no later than May 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Technology on the State broadband plan required under subsection (a) of this section and include recommendations for necessary legislative action and cost estimates for achieving the objectives set forth in the plan.
SECTION 2. (c) Funding for the implementation of subsection (a) of this section shall be provided by the Department of Information Technology, using funds available from the Information Technology Fund.

PARKS FUNDING CONDITIONS AND MATCH

SECTION 3. G.S. 143B-135.56(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Use. – Funds in the Trust Fund are annually appropriated to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority and, unless otherwise specified by the General Assembly or the terms or conditions of a gift or grant, shall be allocated and used as follows:

1. Sixty-five percent (65%) for the State Parks System or a State recreational forest for capital projects, repairs and renovations of park facilities, and land acquisition.

2. Thirty percent (30%) to provide matching funds to local governmental units or public authorities as defined in G.S. 159-7 on a dollar-for-dollar basis for local park and recreation purposes. The appraised value of land that is donated to a local government unit or public authority may be applied to the matching requirement of this subdivision. G.S. 159-7. These funds shall be allocated by the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority based on criteria patterned after the Open Project Selection Process established for the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The following matching requirements apply to projects funded under this subdivision, based on the most recent development tier designation, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08, of the county containing the local governmental unit or public authority:

a. With respect to local park and recreation purposes other than projects described by sub-divisions b. and c. of this subdivision, the local governmental unit match shall be fifty percent (50%). The appraised value of land that is donated to a local government unit or public authority may be applied to the match required by this sub-subdivision.

b. With respect to land acquisition, including the acquisition of unbuildable lots for public recreational purposes, the local governmental unit match shall be fifteen percent (15%) in tier one counties and ten percent (10%) in tier two or tier three counties. At least fifty percent (50%) of the local match must be in cash, and up to fifty percent (50%) may be the value of in-kind donations by the local governmental unit.

c. With respect to park or recreation site improvements, the local governmental unit match shall be twenty-five percent (25%) in tier one counties and ten percent (10%) in tier two or tier three counties. At least fifty percent (50%) of the local match must be in cash, and up to fifty percent (50%) may be the value of in-kind donations by the local governmental unit.

3. Five percent (5%) for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SECTION 4. (a) Section 2 of Chapter 559 of the 1965 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 456 of the 1969 Session Laws, is amended by adding a new section to read:

"Sec. 2.1. Notwithstanding G.S. 66-58 and the provisions of Chapter 153A and Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, the Windsor Township Development Commission shall have additional authority as follows:
To acquire and hold title to real and personal property for public purposes, including for the purpose of constructing and maintaining affordable rental housing units for Bertie County Schools teachers and employees, Bertie County employees, Town of Windsor employees, and State employees residing in Bertie County.

To borrow money and incur debt under terms the Windsor County Development Commission deems reasonable, whether secured or unsecured, for public purposes, including for the purpose of constructing and maintaining affordable rental housing units for Bertie County Schools' teachers and employees, Bertie County employees, Town of Windsor employees, and State employees residing in Bertie County.

To enter into leases, management agreements, or similar arrangements with Bertie County for the County to manage, lease, and maintain rental housing units constructed pursuant to this section.

To accept grants or donations of money contributed for public purposes.

SECTION 4.(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 153A and Chapter 160A of the General Statutes and subject to the restrictions set out in this act, Bertie County may enter into leases, management agreements, or similar arrangements with Windsor Township Development Commission for the County to manage, lease, and maintain rental housing units constructed pursuant to Section 1 of this act. Bertie County shall restrict the rental of such units to Bertie County Public Schools' teachers and employees, unless units cannot be filled by Bertie County Public Schools' teachers and employees, in which case, units shall be rented to Bertie County employees, Town of Windsor employees, or State employees residing in Bertie County.

SECTION 4.(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not exempt any affordable rental housing units constructed or leased pursuant to this act from compliance with applicable building codes, zoning ordinances, or other health and safety statutes, rules, or regulations.

REVISE TAX CREDIT SCORING FOR NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SECTION 4.1.(a) The North Carolina House Finance Agency shall review and revise the 2018 Qualified Allocation Plan (the Plan) for the allocation of low-income housing tax credits with regard to the Plan's selection criteria and threshold requirements for site and market evaluation to eliminate barriers to providing low-income housing in rural communities. In particular, the Agency shall modify the scoring for proximity to a grocery store for a small town to take into account the lack of grocery stores in some rural North Carolina counties and the significant distances citizens must travel (20 to 30 miles) in other rural counties.

SECTION 4.1.(b) The Agency shall adopt the revised Plan no later than July 1, 2019, for implementation during the next loan cycle.

SMALL FARMS TO HEALTHIER SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

SECTION 5.(a) The sum of three hundred forty thousand dollars ($340,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year are appropriated from the General Fund to Working Landscapes, a nonprofit organization based in Warren County, for a pilot program to reimburse participating school districts based on the servings of food they source from farms within the same region. The pilot project will take place in the educational district for the North Central region as provided in G.S. 143B-28.1 (Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Wilson Counties).

SECTION 5.(b) Of the funds appropriated by this act, sixty thousand dollars ($60,000) in the 2019-2020 fiscal year shall be used for payments to participating school systems
to offset the higher cost of locally grown products. The remaining funds in each fiscal year shall
be cost-shared on a one-to-one basis with funds provided by Working Landscapes and shall be
used to establish program infrastructure and assist local farms in obtaining certifications
necessary to supply school nutrition programs.

PUBLIC PRIVATE INNOVATION ZONE

SECTION 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Golden L.E.A.F.
(Long-Term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of one
million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be used as
grants to fund public private partnership projects that provide (i) water and sewer infrastructure
or (ii) broadband to underserved rural counties in eastern North Carolina.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 7. This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.