GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025

H HOUSE BILL 723

Short Title:	Те	echnology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund.	(Public)		
Sponsors:	Re	epresentatives Logan, Ross, Belk, and Reives (Primary Sponsors).			
		For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly we	eb site.		
Referred to	: Ap	oppropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the Ho	ouse		
April 3, 2025					
		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED			
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA TECHNOLOGY COALITIONS STRATEGIC SUPPORT FUND.					
		embly of North Carolina enacts:			
SECTION 1. Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by					
		tion to read:	J		
		The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fu			
		Purposes. – The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Sup	_		
is established as a special fund in the Department of Commerce. The Office of Science,					
Technology, and Innovation shall be responsible for administering grants awarded by the					
Department from the Fund with oversight from the Board of Science, Technology, and					
		ts shall be for the purpose of encouraging regional technology-based			
		ng collaboration throughout a technology coalition and aligning State	resource		
investment to scale critical and secure supply chains. (b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:					
	(1)	Cost match. – Financial or in-kind resources provided through the	Fund to a		
•	(1)	recipient, defined by a ratio of funding pursued or granted by			
		sources to that provided by the Fund.			
	(2)	Department. – The Department of Commerce.			
	(2) (3)	Fund The North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Supp	port Fund		
		established in this section.	•		
	<u>(4)</u>	Office. – The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation.			
	<u>(5)</u>	Recipient An organization supported by the Fund that rep			
		technology coalition. Recipients may be an industry alliance,			
		organization, local government, academic institution, or State agenc			
	<u>(6)</u>	Regional area. – Area of service by the technology coalition and the			
		economic development metric analysis for a technology-based	•		
		sector. For purposes of the Fund, a regional area must be defined v	within the		
	(7)	boundaries of the State.	. ,		
	<u>(7)</u>	Technology coalition. – A regional network of organizations, such	_		
		sector, academic, nonprofit, and government institutions, in a ne- formal and informal relationships that contribute to technology			
		economic development in a technology-based industry sector, su			
		artificial intelligence, (ii) high-performance computing and semico			
		(iii) quantum science and technology, (iv) advanced manufactu			
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1			disaster prevention, (vi) advanced communications technology, (vii)			
2			cybersecurity, (viii) biotechnology, (ix) advanced energy technology, and (x)			
3			material science.			
4	<u>(c)</u>	Eligibi	ility. – To be eligible for a grant from the Fund, all of the following conditions			
5	must be m	et:				
6		<u>(1)</u>	The recipient must have its principal place of operation in the State.			
7		<u>(2)</u>	The recipient must certify that (i) the grant will be used for allowable purposes			
8		<u>(2)</u>	solely within the State and (ii) it will retain its principal place of operation in			
9			the State for as long as it receives grant money from the Fund or the term			
10		(2)	required by the Office, whichever is longer.			
11		<u>(3)</u>	The recipient applies under oath, to, and on a form prescribed by the Office			
12			that includes all of the following:			
13			<u>a.</u> The name of the business, the form of organization under which it is			
14			operated, and the names and addresses of the principals or			
15			management of the business.			
16			b. A description of how a grant from the Fund will aid the technology			
17			coalition to advance its goals.			
18			c. Justifications for the use of Fund resources for intended economic			
19			impact to a regional area.			
20			d. Any other information necessary for the Office to evaluate the			
21			application.			
22		<u>(4)</u>	The recipient does not apply for or receive concurrent funding support from			
23		(1)	other sources duplicating the purposes of the Fund.			
24		<u>(5)</u>	The recipient uses the grant from the Fund only for the activities listed in the			
25		<u>(3)</u>	application and for which the grant was awarded.			
26	(d)	Llca	Other than administrative funds retained by the Department in an amount equal			
27			i) one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) or (ii) two percent (2%) of the			
28			he Fund for the year, the Department shall award distributions from the Fund			
			<u>*</u>			
29	based on s	_	and tactical programmatic needs solely for the following:			
30		<u>(1)</u>	Coalition infrastructure support, including (i) funding recipients to provide			
31			external support or funding to State agencies or divisions of State agencies to			
32			conduct market and economic analyses; (ii) developing workforce training			
33			programs; (iii) supporting private, foundational, and federal grant			
34			identification and submission; and (iv) sponsoring of technology coalition			
35			knowledge-sharing events.			
36		<u>(2)</u>	Coalition cost match allowances to provide financial or in-kind cost matching			
37			to recipients in support of non-State funding, including private, foundational,			
38			and federal funding that drives the economic growth and maturation of a			
39			technology industry in a regional area. The Board of Science, Technology,			
40			and Innovation may (i) set a cap on the cost match amount and the number of			
41			awards per recipient, (ii) require applicants to provide matching funds or			
42			in-kind support for a grant from the Fund, and (iii) provide prioritization in			
43			how the Fund may be used by the recipient.			
44	<u>(e)</u>	Admir	nistration The Department shall develop guidelines related to the			
45	administra		the Fund. At least 20 days before the effective date of any guidelines or			
46	nontechnic	cal ame	endments to guidelines, the Department must publish the proposed guidelines			
47	on the Department's website and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed					
48	guidelines. In addition, the Department must accept oral and written comments on the proposed					
49	-	guidelines during the 15 business days beginning on the first day that the Department has				
50	-	_	notifications. For purposes of this section, a technical amendment is (i) an			
51	-		corrects a spelling or grammatical error or (ii) an amendment that makes a			
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clarification based on public comment and could have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately preceded the public comment."

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Commerce the recurring sum of ten million five hundred thousand dollars (\$10,500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be allocated to the North Carolina Technology Coalitions Strategic Support Fund for purposes consistent with that Fund.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.