

Article 74A.

Golden LEAF Foundation.

§ 143-710. Golden LEAF foundation.

The creation of the nonprofit corporation Golden LEAF (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc., ("Golden LEAF Foundation") pursuant to subparagraph VI.A.1 of the Consent Decree and Final Judgment entered in that action of 98 CVS 14377 on December 21, 1998, is approved for the purposes and on the terms and conditions set forth in subparagraph VI.A.1 of the Consent Decree and Final Judgment. (1999-2, s. 1; 2020-78, s. 6.2(a), (b).)

§ 143-711. Board of directors.

(a) The General Assembly also approves the provisions in the Consent Decree concerning the governance of the Golden LEAF Foundation by 15 directors holding staggered, four-year terms, five directors to be appointed by the Governor of the State of North Carolina, one of whom shall be the Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority created in G.S. 143B-472.128, or the Chair's designee, five by the President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, and five by the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives; and that the Governor shall appoint the first Chair among the Governor's appointees, and the directors shall elect their own Chair from among their number for subsequent terms. Members of the General Assembly shall not be appointed to serve on the board of directors while serving in the General Assembly.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in appointing directors to the Golden LEAF Foundation, shall, in their sole discretion, include among their appointments representatives of tobacco production, tobacco manufacturing, tobacco-related employment, health, and economic development interests, with each appointing authority selecting at least two directors from these interests. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the appointing authorities, in appointing directors, shall appoint members that represent the geographic, gender, and racial diversity of the State. (1999-2, ss. 2(c), 5; 2013-360, s. 15.10A(a); 2020-78, s. 6.2(a), (b).)

§ 143-712. Articles of incorporation; reporting.

The Attorney General shall draft articles of incorporation for the Golden LEAF Foundation to enable the Golden LEAF Foundation to carry out its mission as set out in the Consent Decree. The articles of incorporation shall provide for the following:

- (1) Reporting. – The Golden LEAF Foundation shall report on its programs and activities to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, and the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee on or before September 15 of each fiscal year and more frequently as requested by any of these entities. The report shall include all of the following information:
 - a. Grants made in the prior fiscal year, including the amount, term, and purpose of the grant.
 - b. Outcome data collected by the Golden LEAF Foundation, including the number of jobs created.
 - c. Cumulative grant data by program and by county.
 - d. Unaudited actual administrative expenses and grants made in the prior fiscal year.

e. Current fiscal year budget, planned activities, and goals for the current fiscal year.

The Golden LEAF Foundation shall also provide to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee an itemized report of its administrative expenses for the previous fiscal year by September 15 of each year, a copy of its annual audited financial statement for the previous fiscal year within 30 days of having received an audit report from an independent auditor, and a copy of its annual federal income tax return for the previous fiscal year within 30 days of filing.

- (1a) Amendment of articles of incorporation. – The Golden LEAF Foundation may periodically amend its articles of incorporation to maintain conformity with the provisions of this Article and any other act of the General Assembly. Subject to the conditions set forth in G.S. 55A-10-02, 55A-10-05, 120-76.1, and Article XIV of the Articles of Incorporation, the Golden LEAF Foundation shall consult with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to submitting articles of amendment to the Secretary of State.
- (2) Public records; open meetings. – The Golden LEAF Foundation is subject to the Open Meetings Law as provided in Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and the Public Records Act as provided in Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The Golden LEAF Foundation shall publish at least annually a report, available to the public and filed with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee, of every expenditure or distribution in furtherance of the public charitable purposes of the Golden LEAF Foundation.
- (3) Transfer of assets. – The Golden LEAF Foundation shall not dispose of assets pursuant to G.S. 55A-12-02 without the approval of the General Assembly.
- (4) Charter repeal. – The charter of the Golden LEAF Foundation may be repealed at any time by the General Assembly pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1 of the North Carolina Constitution. The Golden LEAF Foundation shall not amend its articles of incorporation without the approval of the General Assembly.
- (5) Dissolution. – The Golden LEAF Foundation may be dissolved pursuant to Chapter 55A of the General Statutes, by the General Assembly, or by the Court pursuant to the Consent Decree. Upon dissolution, all unencumbered assets and funds of the Golden LEAF Foundation, including the right to receive future funds, are transferred to the Settlement Reserve Fund established pursuant to G.S. 143-16.4. (1999-2, s. 3; 2020-78, s. 6.2(a), (b); 2023-134, s. 11.5.)

§ 143-713. Use of funds.

(a) The funds under the Master Settlement Agreement, which is incorporated into the Consent Decree, shall be credited to the Settlement Reserve Fund.

(b) Any monies paid into the North Carolina State Specific Account from the Disputed Payments Account on account of the Non-Participating Manufacturers that would have been transferred to the Golden LEAF Foundation shall be deposited in the Settlement Reserve Fund. (1999-2, s. 6; 2011-145, s. 6.11(d); 2011-391, s. 7(b); 2013-360, s. 6.4(b); 2020-78, s. 6.2(a), (b).)