

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 85*

Short Title: Expand NC Business Opportunities.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Harris, Ballantine, and Rand.

Referred to: Commerce.

February 7, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ENCOURAGE
3 NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESSES TO SEEK FEDERAL CONTRACTS WITH
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND TO CORROBORATE WITH OTHER
5 GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT ENTITIES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO
6 EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE AND MARKET THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
7 AS AN INDUSTRY IN THIS STATE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** Work Group. – The Secretary of Commerce shall convene a
10 work group of interested parties knowledgeable in the different facets of doing business
11 with the Department of Defense. The work group must include representatives from the
12 following government agencies and nonprofit organizations: the Department of
13 Commerce, the Community Colleges System, the Employment Security Commission,
14 the Department of Administration, the Department of the Secretary of State, Concurrent
15 Technologies Corporation, the Small Business Technology and Development Center,
16 the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, the Governor's Advisory Commission on
17 Military Affairs, the DoD Business Committee of the Governor's Advisory Commission
18 on Military Affairs, and any other organization that the Department of Commerce or
19 this work group may identify with an expertise in this area.

20 **SECTION 2.** Meetings. – The Secretary of Commerce must convene the
21 work group created in Section 1 of this act at least once quarterly. The Secretary may
22 chair the meetings or designate another member of the work group to chair the
23 meetings.

24 **SECTION 3.** Goals and Objectives. – The work group created in Section 1
25 of this act is charged with the goal of increasing the amount of dollars from federal
26 contracts paid to businesses in North Carolina and of utilizing the skilled workforce
27 represented by the more than 17,000 service members which transition from active duty
28 each year in North Carolina. In fulfilling its goals, the work group should consider

1 studies prepared by agencies and organizations in this area, including the studies
2 prepared by the DoD Business Committee of the Governor's Advisory Commission on
3 Military Affairs and by Concurrent Technologies Corporation. To accomplish these
4 goals, the work group should strive to meet the following objectives:

- 5 (1) Investigate requirements for and establish a Single Point Registration
6 for North Carolina vendors with automatic linked registration to DLIS
7 Central Contractor Registration, VendorLink, and other established
8 programs.
- 9 (2) Coordinate within the various agencies and organizations that help
10 North Carolina businesses obtain federal contracts to develop a unified
11 approach to delivering these services in an efficient and effective
12 manner.
- 13 (3) Determine the gaps between government needs and industry capability
14 and needs and develop an approach to encourage industry to utilize its
15 capabilities to meet those government needs.
- 16 (4) Complete a skills assessment program for transitioning Department of
17 Defense personnel and develop a job placement database that may be
18 used to promote this skilled workforce with industries that need
19 employees with those particular skills.
- 20 (5) Any other issue the work group determines needs to be addressed to
21 meet its goals.

22 **SECTION 4.** Consultants. – The Department of Commerce may contract for
23 consultant services as determined necessary by the working group.

24 **SECTION 5.** The Department of Commerce shall report on the progress of
25 the work group to the Natural and Economic Resources-Governmental Operations
26 Subcommittee by April 2002 and by January 2003.

27 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.