

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1400
(Representatives Berg, Pietsch, Severson, Tieman)
(Senators Klein, Trenbeath)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-34.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a rural growth incentive program administered by the department of economic development and finance; and to provide for allocation of the North Dakota development fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 54-34.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Rural growth incentive program.

1. The department shall manage and administer the rural growth incentive program. A city with a population of less than two thousand five hundred may apply to the department to be designated as a rural growth incentive city. The department shall designate an applicant city as a rural growth incentive city if the city raises funds in the amount of a dollar for dollar match for the amount requested in the loan, prepares an economic development strategic plan, and meets any additional program requirements provided by rule. The source of city funds may be any combination of public and private funds.
2. If the department designates a city as a rural growth incentive city:
 - a. Subject to the availability of funds, the state shall make a loan to the city in an amount not less than twenty-five thousand dollars and not more than seventy-five thousand dollars. The department shall establish the amount of the interest rate for loans provided to a city under this section. The funding source of the state loan is the North Dakota development fund. The city shall distribute the city and state funds to qualifying new or expanded primary sector businesses in the city. A qualifying business in the city includes a business that provides essential services to the city. For purposes of this section, a business that provides essential services does not include a public utility. The governing body of the city determines whether a new or expanded primary sector business qualifies for funding, and the director of the department determines whether a business that provides essential services to the city qualifies for funding. The state shall distribute a loan to a rural growth incentive city once the city establishes the city has chosen a specified qualified business to receive funding. The city may not use city or state funds raised or provided under this section for costs associated with administering the rural growth incentive city.
 - b. The department shall provide the city with training to assist the city in expanding primary sector businesses and working with state economic development programs.

SECTION 2. NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS. A portion of the amount available in the North Dakota development fund relating to the transfer of regional rural development revolving loan fund moneys may be used for the purpose of providing state loan funds under section 1 of this Act.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1400.

House Vote: Yeas 98 Nays 0 Absent 0

Senate Vote: Yeas 48 Nays 0 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State