

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1224

Short Title: Alleghany Economic Development Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Harrell.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 14, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE ALLEGHANY COUNTY
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
4 OF A NEW MUSEUM IN THE TOWN OF SPARTA.

5 Whereas, since 2000, Alleghany County has lost 1,900 jobs due to the closing
6 of several small businesses and factories, which has led to the devastation of the Main
7 Street business district in the Town of Sparta; and

8 Whereas, local leaders in Alleghany County and Sparta are focused on
9 building on the community's strong entrepreneurial tradition; and

10 Whereas, the community has successfully recruited a world-class collection
11 of contemporary art; and

12 Whereas, a 5.2 acre site has been acquired in the heart of downtown Sparta to
13 serve as the location for a museum to house an art collection, with additional parking,
14 and amenities for downtown businesses; and

15 Whereas, the community's \$10 million investment represents the largest
16 single investment in the history of downtown Sparta; and

17 Whereas, the community can leverage \$12.00 of non-State funds for every
18 \$1.00 of State funds to build the museum; and

19 Whereas, this downtown redevelopment program will establish Alleghany
20 County as a cultural destination, attracting 60,000 new visitors and creating \$7.5 million
21 in new spending in the region on an annual basis; and

22 Whereas, this downtown redevelopment program will create 125 new jobs for
23 the area; Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Alleghany
26 County Economic Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization, the sum of one
27 million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to
28 construct a new museum to house contemporary art in the Town of Sparta.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.