

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

HOUSE BILL 1389  
RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CITIES AND COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH LOAN PROGRAMS TO FINANCE THE INSTALLATION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO REAL PROPERTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 160A-459. 1. Revolving loan program for energy improvements.**

(a) Purpose. – The General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the citizens of North Carolina to promote and encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency within the State in order to conserve energy, promote economic competitiveness, and expand employment in the State. In furtherance of this purpose, a city may establish a program to finance the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently affixed to residential, commercial, or other real property.

(b) Revolving Loan Fund. – A city may establish a revolving loan fund for the purpose of providing loans to finance the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently fixed to residential, commercial, or other real property. A city may use Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds and its unrestricted revenue to fund the revolving loan fund. The annual interest rate charged for the use of funds from the revolving fund may not exceed eight percent (8%) per annum, excluding other fees for loan application review and origination. The term of any loan originated under this section may not be greater than 15 years.

(c) Definition. – As used in this Article, 'renewable energy source' has the same meaning as 'renewable energy resource' in G.S. 62-133.8."

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 153A-455. Revolving loan program for energy improvements.**

(a) Purpose. – The General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the citizens of North Carolina to promote and encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency within the State in order to conserve energy, promote economic competitiveness, and expand employment in the State. In furtherance of this purpose, a county may establish a program to finance the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently affixed to residential, commercial, or other real property.

(b) Revolving Loan Fund. – A county may establish a revolving loan fund for the purpose of providing loans to finance the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently fixed to residential, commercial, or other real property. A county may use Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds and its unrestricted revenue to fund the revolving loan fund. The annual interest rate charged for the use of funds from the revolving fund may not exceed eight percent (8%) per annum, excluding other fees for loan application review and origination. The term of any loan originated under this section may not be greater than 15 years.

(c) Definition. – As used in this Article, 'renewable energy source' has the same meaning as 'renewable energy resource' in G.S. 62-133.8."



**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August,

2009.

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Marc Basnight  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

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Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009