

SENATE BILL 2713

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7; Title 7 and Title 9, relative to economic development. This act makes appropriations for economic development in rural counties for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. From excess state tax revenue over-collected in fiscal year 2020-2021 and deposited in the general fund, there is appropriated an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of such excess revenue to the Tennessee Rural Economic Development Fund created by Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 2. There is hereby created a special account to be known as the Tennessee Rural Economic Development Fund ("the fund"). Appropriations in the amount made by Section 1 of this act shall be transferred to the fund for use by the department of economic and community development to support economic development programs in rural counties throughout the state, including Tennessee industrial development associations in each grand division. Any unexpended revenues shall not revert to the general fund balance at June 30.

SECTION 3. It is the intent of the General Assembly that if there is any excess state tax revenue over-collected and deposited in the general fund in fiscal years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, that an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of such excess revenue also be appropriated to the Tennessee Rural Economic Development Fund and used in accordance with Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 4. For purposes of this act:

(1) "Economic development" includes, but is not limited to:

(A) Industrial development;

(B) Infrastructure development;

(C) Creation or retention of private sector jobs;

(D) Job training assistance; and

(E) Broadband accessibility; and

(2) "Rural county" is defined as a county that has less than fifty percent (50%) of its population being within an urbanized area as defined by the United States census bureau.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.