



CONNECT • DEVELOP • GROW

For Immediate Release

Contact: Gene Stinson, President
The Southern Economic Development Council
Phone: (404) 523-3030
Fax: (404) 523-0406
E-mail: gene@sedc.org
Web: www.sedc.org

SEDC Informs Members on Legislation that may Affect Business Location Decisions

ATLANTA – April 12 , 2016 – Recent “religious freedom” legislation signed into law in Mississippi and a narrower piece of legislation nullifying local anti-discrimination authority in North Carolina may have profound implications for business growth and economic development in those states. The Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) is collecting information on the reaction to the legislation in the affected states, creating an online library of articles and other media for the use of its members.

“Economic development professionals must stay abreast of a wide variety of legislative actions affecting the business climate in the areas they serve,” said SEDC Board Chairman Chuck Whipple. “This particular type of lawmaking can have far-reaching consequences for professionals working to attract businesses and job creation to their states, counties and towns.”

“SEDC does not take a position on this type of legislation, but is simply collecting and curating information from cities and states where such bills have passed,” said SEDC President Gene Stinson. “Our members should understand the possible impacts on jobs, investments and business location decisions and be prepared if similar laws are enacted in their states.”

SEDC will post the information on its Web site for its members use. Articles will be listed based on the city and state to which they pertain. The intent is to provide SEDC members with a

comprehensive resource for reviewing the impact and reactions to the legislative efforts—including those not yet passed but likely to be introduced.

“Regardless of personal beliefs on this subject, big business is viewing these types of bills as discriminatory, and they are speaking out,” said SEDC Legislative Affairs chair Eric Miller. “These companies have strong corporate missions of inclusion with non-discrimination policies, and many have already indicated they won’t conduct business in jurisdictions where such laws have passed.”

SEDC is the oldest and largest regional economic development association in North America, with more than 1,035 members representing a variety of backgrounds. From local, regional and state economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, business and industry, utilities, transportation, finance and education, members share a common interest: the promotion and enhancement of the economic development profession. To find out more about SEDC, please visit our Web site at www.sedc.org.

#####