

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 1134**

Short Title: Global Warming/Climate Change. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Albertson; Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Clodfelter, Cowell, Garrou, Hagan, Kerr, Kinnaird, Lucas, Nesbitt, and Snow.

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Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

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March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GLOBAL  
3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO (1) DIRECT THE COMMISSION TO STUDY  
4 ISSUES RELATED TO GLOBAL WARMING AND THE EMERGING CARBON  
5 ECONOMY, (2) DEVELOP A RECOMMENDED GLOBAL WARMING  
6 POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL, AND (3) RECOMMEND A PROCESS FOR  
7 THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** Commission Established; Membership. – The Legislative  
10 Commission on Global Climate Change is hereby established: The Commission shall  
11 consist of 30 members as follows:

- 12 (1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
13 of the Senate.  
14 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
16 (3) Two members of the public at large appointed by the President Pro  
17 Tempore of the Senate.  
18 (4) Two members of the public at large appointed by the Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives.  
20 (5) Two members of the public at large appointed by the Governor.  
21 (6) The Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner's designee.  
22 (7) The Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary's designee.  
23 (8) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources or the  
24 Secretary's designee.  
25 (9) The State Health Director or the Director's designee.  
26 (10) The Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary's designee.  
27 (11) The President of Duke Energy or the President's designee.  
28 (12) The President of Progress Energy or the President's designee.

- 1 (13) The President of the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry  
2 or the President's designee.
- 3 (14) The President of the Manufacturers and Chemical Industry Council of  
4 North Carolina or the President's designee.
- 5 (15) The President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation or the  
6 President's designee.
- 7 (16) The President of the North Carolina Forestry Association or the  
8 President's designee.
- 9 (17) The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Travel  
10 and Tourism Coalition or the Chairman's designee.
- 11 (18) The Southeast Regional Director of the North Carolina Environmental  
12 Defense or the Regional Director's designee.
- 13 (19) The Executive Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy or  
14 the Executive Director's designee.
- 15 (20) The Executive Director of the North Carolina Coastal Federation or  
16 the Executive Director's designee.
- 17 (21) The Executive Director of the North Carolina Conservation Council or  
18 the Executive Director's designee.
- 19 (22) Dr. William H. Schlesinger, Dean, Nicholas School of the  
20 Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University.
- 21 (23) Dr. Stanley R. Riggs, Distinguished Research Professor, Department  
22 of Geology, East Carolina University.
- 23 (24) Dr. Douglas J. Crawford-Brown, Director, Carolina Environmental  
24 Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 25 (25) Dr. Howard S. Neufeld, Professor, Department of Biology,  
26 Appalachian State University.

27 **SECTION 2.** Cochairs. – The Commission shall have two Cochairs, one  
28 designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the  
29 House of Representatives from among their respective appointees. The Commission  
30 shall meet upon the call of the Cochairs.

31 **SECTION 3.** Quorum. – A quorum of the Commission shall consist of 16  
32 members.

33 **SECTION 4.** Vacancies. – Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled  
34 as provided in Section 1 of this act or by the original appointing authority as  
35 appropriate.

36 **SECTION 5.** Purpose and Duties. – The Commission shall conduct an  
37 in-depth examination of issues related to global climate change. This examination shall  
38 include a review of current scientific literature on the possible causes and the likely  
39 impacts of global warming with particular emphasis on the extent to which activities in  
40 the State may be contributing to global warming, the impacts of global warming on the  
41 State, and how best to address those contributions and impacts. The Commission shall  
42 recommend a global warming pollutant reduction goal for the State, including a process  
43 for periodic adjustment of the goal at intervals of not more than five years, for  
44 consideration and possible adoption by the General Assembly. This recommended goal

1 should be consistent with a worldwide goal of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of  
2 carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants at or below 500 parts per million  
3 while protecting the economic development of the State. In establishing the  
4 recommended goal, the Commission shall consider global warming pollution reduction  
5 goals established under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and by other  
6 states. The Commission shall also recommend a process for developing a State climate  
7 action plan, including the desirability of establishing a task force to develop the plan  
8 and oversee its implementation. If the Commission recommends the establishment of a  
9 task force, the Commission may also make recommendations regarding the composition  
10 and work plan of the task force. In developing its recommendations, the Commission  
11 shall consider and integrate the findings and recommendations of the study of issues  
12 related to the development and implementation of standards and plans to control  
13 emissions of carbon dioxide required by Section 13 of S.L. 2002-4.

14 **SECTION 6.** Additional Duties. – The Commission may work cooperatively  
15 with other state and national governments to organize a forum on global warming  
16 causes, impacts, challenges, and opportunities in the southeastern United States.

17 **SECTION 7.** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall  
18 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,  
19 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

20 **SECTION 8.** Staff. – Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Services  
21 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to the  
22 Commission to aid its work.

23 **SECTION 9.** Consultants. – The Commission may hire consultants to assist  
24 with the study. Before expending any funds for a consultant, the Commission shall  
25 report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the  
26 consultant selected, the work products to be provided by the consultant, and the cost of  
27 the contract, including an itemization of the cost components.

28 **SECTION 10.** Report. – The Commission shall report its findings and  
29 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Environmental Review Commission  
30 on or before 1 April 2006, at which time the Commission shall terminate.

31 **SECTION 11.** Funding. – From funds appropriated to the General  
32 Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the purpose of  
33 conducting the study provided for in this act.

34 **SECTION 12.** Effective date. – This act is effective when it becomes law.