

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2687

Short Title: Poverty Reduction/Econ. Recovery Study/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pierce, Bryant (Primary Sponsors); Faison and Farmer-Butterfield.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 28, 2008

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT CREATING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC
3 RECOVERY LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION AND APPROPRIATING
4 FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** The General Assembly finds that poverty in this State is
7 widespread, especially in rural areas and other areas that have lost significant numbers
8 of agricultural and manufacturing jobs. Further, the General Assembly finds that an
9 understanding of the causes and effects of poverty are critical in the reduction of
10 poverty and the economic recovery of low-wealth areas. To that end, there is created the
11 Poverty Reduction and Economic Recovery Legislative Study Commission
12 (Commission).

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Commission shall consist of 21 voting members
14 appointed as follows:

- 15 (1) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, to include:
17 a. Seven members of the House of Representatives.
18 b. Three members of the general public, including persons with
19 expertise in the fields of business and economic development,
20 public health, and affordable housing.
- 21 (2) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
22 to include:
23 a. Seven members of the Senate.
24 b. Three members of the general public, including persons with
25 expertise in the fields of education, public safety, and child
26 welfare.
- 27 (3) One member elected by the voting membership of the Commission at
28 its initial meeting.

1 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Commission shall consist of the following nonvoting,
2 ex-officio members:

- 3 (1) The Commissioner of Labor, or that officer's designee.
- 4 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or that officer's designee.
- 5 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or
6 that officer's designee.
- 7 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation, or that officer's
8 designee.
- 9 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
10 Prevention, or that officer's designee.
- 11 (6) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or that officer's
12 designee.
- 13 (7) The Chairman of the Employment Security Commission, or that
14 officer's designee.

15 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Commission shall:

- 16 (1) Study and develop a coordinated, integrated approach to poverty
17 reduction and economic recovery across the State.
- 18 (2) Examine poverty in each region of the State with an emphasis on the
19 following counties: Alleghany, Avery, Bladen, Columbus,
20 Edgecombe, Graham, Halifax, Hoke, Northampton, Robeson,
21 Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Watauga, and Yancey.
- 22 (3) Examine other states' evidenced-based intervention methods and
23 overall best practices in poverty reduction and economic recovery.
- 24 (4) Study any other matter pertinent to poverty reduction and economic
25 recovery in North Carolina.

26 **SECTION 2.** The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
27 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. The
28 Commission may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon
29 approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall
30 assign professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Commission. Clerical
31 staff shall be furnished to the Commission through the offices of the House of
32 Representatives and the Senate Directors of Legislative Assistants. The Commission
33 may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the
34 approval of the Legislative Services Commission. Members of the Commission shall
35 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances at the rate established in
36 G.S. 120-3.1. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies.

37 The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all
38 the powers provided under the provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4,
39 including the power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the
40 State to provide any information, data, or documents within their possession,
41 ascertainable from their records, or otherwise available to them, and the power to
42 subpoena witnesses.

43 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall submit its final report by the 2010
44 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly and may make interim reports it deems

1 necessary. The Commission's final report shall include the results of the Commission's
2 review and specific legislative recommendations. The Commission shall terminate upon
3 filing its final report.

4 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
5 Assembly the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal
6 year to fund the work of the Commission.

7 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.