

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 585

Short Title: NC Energy Independence Search Committee. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pridgen, Hastings, and Jones (Primary Sponsors).  
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Public Utilities.

April 5, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY INDEPENDENCE  
3 SEARCH COMMITTEE TO CONTACT AND INVITE MAJOR ENERGY COMPANIES  
4 TO EXPLORE IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR NATURAL GAS, OIL, WIND, OR OTHER  
5 ENERGY SOURCES CAPABLE OF LARGE SCALE ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR  
6 THE PURPOSE OF NORTH CAROLINA BECOMING MORE ENERGY  
7 INDEPENDENT.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by  
10 adding a new Part to read:

11 "Part 22. North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee.  
12 **§ 143B-472.130. North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee.**

13 (a) The North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee is established to  
14 contact and invite major energy companies to explore in North Carolina for natural gas, oil,  
15 wind, or other energy sources capable of large scale energy production for the purpose of North  
16 Carolina becoming more self-determining as to its energy supplies; becoming more  
17 independent of foreign energy markets, which are volatile and steeply fluctuating due to current  
18 energy and political crises; and avoiding the potential of being completely cut off from foreign  
19 fuel due to political unrest and instability in the Middle East. The North Carolina Energy  
20 Independence Search Committee is charged with the following:

21 (1) Identifying prospective major energy companies that explore for and  
22 produce energy from natural gas, oil, wind, or other energy sources capable  
23 of large scale energy production.

24 (2) Contacting the major energy exploration and production companies it  
25 identifies and inviting these companies to North Carolina to present the  
26 North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee with specific  
27 proposals for the large scale production of energy in North Carolina.

28 (b) The North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee shall consist of the  
29 following members:

30 (1) One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
31 Representatives.

32 (2) One member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

33 (3) One member to be appointed by the Governor.

34 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select the member who shall  
35 serve as Chair of the Search Committee. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum. The



1 North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee shall convene no later than November  
2 1, 2011, and shall set its subsequent meeting schedule as determined by the members of the  
3 Search Committee.

4 (d) Members of the North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee shall serve  
5 for three-year staggered terms. Any vacancy that occurs on the Search Committee shall be  
6 filled within 30 days of the vacancy occurring and shall be filled in the same manner as the  
7 original appointment. Nonlegislative members of the Search Committee shall receive per diem,  
8 subsistence, and travel allowances at the rates set forth in G.S. 138-6. Legislative members of  
9 the Search Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances at the rates set  
10 forth in G.S. 120-3.1.

11 (e) The Department of Commerce shall provide requested administrative, professional,  
12 and clerical support to the North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee.

13 (f) The North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee shall submit annual  
14 reports no later than January 15 of each year to the Secretary of Commerce, to the General  
15 Assembly, and to the North Carolina Utilities Commission. The annual report shall include the  
16 findings and recommendations of the Search Committee and a report of the Search Committee's  
17 progress in accomplishing its charge under this section."

18 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.130(d), as enacted by Section 1 of  
19 this act, in order to establish a schedule of staggered terms of three years for the North Carolina  
20 Energy Independence Search Committee established by G.S. 143B-472.130, the initial  
21 members shall be appointed no later than October 1, 2011, and the term of the member of the  
22 Search Committee initially appointed by the Governor shall be two years, the term of the  
23 member of the Search Committee initially appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives shall be three years, and the term of the member of the Search Committee  
25 initially appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be four years.

26 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina Energy Independence Search Committee  
27 established under G.S. 143B-472.130, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, shall submit its first  
28 report required under G.S. 143B-472.130 no later than January 15, 2012.

29 **SECTION 4.** This act shall be implemented using funds available to the  
30 Department of Commerce for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

31 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.