

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 651

Short Title: Study NC Govt to Up Alternative Energy Use. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Goss.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 19, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT STUDY COMMISSION TO STUDY STATE
GOVERNMENT EXPANDING ITS USE OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is established the Joint Study Commission on Expanding
Alternative Energy Use by State Government.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of 14 members as follows:

(1) Seven members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
the Senate.

(2) Seven members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker
of the House of Representatives.

Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the appointing authority that made
the original appointment that is vacant. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate a cochair. A quorum of the
Commission shall be eight members.

The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all
powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the
power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any
information, data, or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or
otherwise available to them, and the power to subpoena witnesses.

The Commission may meet at any time upon call of the chairs. The Commission
may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Commission may
contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer,
shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of
Representatives' and the Senate's Director of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to
the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the
Commission. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the
rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

SECTION 3. The Commission shall study the feasibility and desirability of State
government expanding its use of alternative sources of energy for fueling vehicles that are
owned or leased by the State as well as for providing energy to power heating and air
conditioning (HVAC) systems in buildings owned or leased by the State and to power other
systems, motors, and appliances that are owned or leased by the State. As a part of its study, the
Commission shall consider the feasibility and desirability of using natural gas in the short term
so that the State is able to lessen its dependence on petroleum-based sources of energy in the
immediate future and until some other alternative energy sources are available for use by the



1 State. As a part of its study, the Commission shall consider the feasibility and desirability of the
2 State government employing wind power. The Commission may consider any other issue
3 deemed relevant by the Commission.

4 **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall make a final report, including any proposed
5 legislation, to the 2011 General Assembly upon its convening. The Commission shall
6 terminate upon filing its final report or upon the convening of the 2011 General Assembly,
7 whichever is earlier.

8 **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
9 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and
10 the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year for the cost of
11 conducting the study established by this act.

12 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.