

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 860\***

Short Title: Est. Family Violence & Child Custody Comm. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin, McLawhorn, Farmer-Butterfield (Primary Sponsors);  
Harrison, Hughes, Insko, Johnson, Lucas, Luebke, Ross, Wainwright, Weiss,  
Womble, and Wray.

Referred to: Juvenile Justice, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 30, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON FAMILY  
VIOLENCE AND CHILD CUSTODY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** There is created the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Family  
Violence and Child Custody. The Committee shall consist of 10 members to be appointed as  
follows:

- (1) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
Senate.
- (2) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
the House of Representatives.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one senator as cochair, and  
the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one representative as cochair.  
Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the same appointing authority who made the  
initial appointment.

The Committee, 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. The Committee may  
meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. The Committee may meet in the Legislative  
Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Committee 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 Committee in its work. The Senate's and House of  
Representatives' Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to the Committee,  
and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee. Members  
of the Committee 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 2.** The Committee shall study the issue of child custody and the impact  
family violence has on child custody decisions rendered in North Carolina. In conducting the  
study, the Committee shall consider issues related to the following:

- (1) The State's current laws regarding custody and visitation.
- (2) The State's current laws regarding domestic and family violence.
- (3) Laws enacted by other states addressing family violence and child custody.
- (4) What, if any, changes are necessary to the State's current laws to protect an  
abused parent or child as related to child custody.
- (5) Any other issues the Committee deems relevant to the study.



1           **SECTION 3.** The Committee shall make a final report of its findings and  
2 recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly prior to its  
3 convening. The Committee shall terminate upon the filing of its final report.

4           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.