

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 1229*

Short Title: Permanent Poverty Study. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jones; and Berger of Franklin.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 19, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON POVERTY
3 REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT
4 LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND
5 ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
8 article to read:

9 "Article 12Q.

10 Joint Legislative Commission on Poverty Reduction and Economic Recovery.

11 **"§ 120-70.150. Creation and membership of Joint Legislative Commission on Poverty**
12 **Reduction and Economic Recovery.**

13 (a) Findings and Establishment of Commission. – The General Assembly finds that
14 poverty in this State is widespread, especially in rural areas and other areas that have lost
15 significant numbers of agricultural and manufacturing jobs. Further, the General Assembly
16 finds that an understanding of the causes and effects of poverty are critical in the reduction of
17 poverty and the economic recovery of low-wealth areas. To that end, there is created the Joint
18 Legislative Poverty Reduction and Economic Recovery Commission.

19 (b) Voting Members. – The Commission shall consist of 20 voting members appointed
20 as follows:

21 (1) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
22 include:

23 a. Seven members of the House of Representatives.

24 b. Three members of the general public, including persons with
25 expertise in the fields of business and economic development, public
26 health, and affordable housing.

27 (2) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
28 include:

29 a. Seven members of the Senate.

30 b. Three members of the general public, including persons with
31 expertise in the fields of education, public safety, and child welfare.

32 Terms on the Commission are for two years and begin on January 15 of each odd-numbered
33 year, except the terms of the initial members, which begin on appointment and end on January
34 15 of the next odd-numbered year. Members who are members of the General Assembly may
35 complete a term of service on the Commission even if they do not seek reelection or are not
36 reelected to the General Assembly, but resignation or removal from service in the General
37 Assembly constitutes resignation or removal from service on the Commission.



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1 A member continues to serve until his or her successor is appointed. A vacancy shall be
2 filled within 30 days by the officer who made the original appointment.

3 (c) Nonvoting Members. – The Commission shall also include the following nonvoting,
4 ex-officio members:

5 (1) The Commissioner of Labor, or that officer's designee.

6 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or that officer's designee.

7 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or that
8 officer's designee.

9 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation, or that officer's designee.

10 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
11 Prevention, or that officer's designee.

12 (6) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or that officer's designee.

13 (7) The Chairman of the Employment Security Commission, or that officer's
14 designee.

15 (d) The Commission shall:

16 (1) Study and develop a coordinated, integrated approach to poverty reduction
17 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, Edgecombe,
20 Graham, Halifax, Hoke, Northampton, Robeson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren,
21 Watauga, and Yancey.

22 (3) Examine other states' evidenced-based intervention methods and best
23 practices in poverty reduction and economic recovery.

24 (4) Identify a reasonable target and time line for poverty reduction, including
25 alternative measures for poverty.

26 (5) Establish regional commissions on poverty reduction and economic recovery
27 in the high poverty regions of the State.

28 (6) Study any other matter pertinent to poverty reduction and economic recovery
29 in North Carolina.

30 (e) Administrative Matters. – The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
31 President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. The
32 Commission may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon
33 approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign
34 professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Commission. Clerical staff shall be
35 furnished to the Commission through the offices of the House of Representatives and the
36 Senate Directors of Legislative Assistants. The Commission may meet in the Legislative
37 Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services
38 Commission. Members of the Commission shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel
39 allowances at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate. The
40 appointing authority shall fill vacancies.

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

46 (f) Reports. – The Commission may make interim reports to the General Assembly on
47 matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the
48 General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the
49 Commission."

50 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.