

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE BILL 627

Short Title: Study Efficiency and Cost Savings/State Govt. (Public)

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

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 6, 2011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFICIENCY AND
COST-SAVINGS IN STATE GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is established the Joint Legislative Efficiency and
Cost-Savings in State Government Study Commission.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall be composed of 10 members appointed as
follows:

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

Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the appointing authority. 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 a majority of its members.

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 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 and documents.

The Director of the Fiscal Research Division shall provide staff support to assist the
Commission in its work. The Director of the Program Evaluation Division shall advise the
Commission and Fiscal Research Division staff. The Legislative Services Commission, through
the Legislative Services Officer, shall assign other professional staff to assist the Commission
in its work. The House of Representatives' and Senate's Directors 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 use a zero-based budgeting review process to
study whether there are obsolete programs, cost-reduction opportunities in State government,
and any cases where existing funds can be redirected to meet new and changing demands for
public services. The Commission shall start the review process with the Department of Juvenile
Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Commission may require any agency under review to



1 submit written information in a form specified by the Commission by a specified time. The
2 Commission may accept or reject any or part of any information submitted and require revision
3 or resubmission. The Commission may require information as follows:

- 4 (1) Identification of decision units. – The agency shall identify decision units
5 representing any group of services with a common set of objectives or
6 comprising an agency program or administrative support unit.
- 7 (2) Impact of discontinuing each decision unit. – The agency shall provide a
8 quantitative estimate of any adverse impacts that could reasonably be
9 expected should the State discontinue a decision unit, together with a full
10 description of the methods by which the adverse impact is estimated.
- 11 (3) Division of decision units into decision packages. – The agency shall divide
12 each decision unit into the following four discrete decision packages:
 - 13 a. Minimum. – A quantitative estimate of any adverse impacts that
14 could reasonably be expected and an itemized account of
15 expenditures that would be required to maintain the activity at the
16 minimum level of service required by any statutory authorization and
17 below which would effectively eliminate all services, together with a
18 concise statement of the resulting quantity and quality of services.
19 This service level shall be below the level described by
20 sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.
 - 21 b. Reduced. – A quantitative estimate of any adverse impacts that could
22 reasonably be expected and an itemized account of expenditures that
23 would be required if funding were reduced by the percentage or
24 amount specified by the Commission below the current level as
25 defined by sub-subdivision c. of this subdivision and a concise
26 statement of the resulting quantity and quality of services.
 - 27 c. Current. – A quantitative description of benefits from and an
28 itemized account of expenditures that would be required to maintain
29 the activity at the current level of service, together with a full
30 description of the methods by which the current level is determined
31 and a concise statement of the resulting quantity and quality of
32 services.
 - 33 d. Enhanced. – A quantitative estimate of benefits that could reasonably
34 be expected and an itemized account of expenditures that would be
35 required to increase the current level of service, together with a full
36 description of the methods by which the enhanced level is estimated
37 and a concise statement of the resulting quantity and quality of
38 services.
- 39 (4) Service delivery alternatives. – For each decision package, a description of
40 alternative methods for delivering services which may include, but not be
41 limited to, shedding one or more services and relying upon the free market
42 for delivery, delegation to another level of government, using Requests for
43 Information or competitive selection to outsource to private for-profit or
44 nonprofit organizations, in whole or in part, including franchising, assisting
45 or providing incubator arrangements for current State employees to form
46 non-State organizations to compete for outsourcing opportunities, or through
47 methods used by other states or nations.
- 48 (5) Ranking. – As instructed by the Commission, a ranking of all decision
49 packages compared with each other without ties.

50 **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall make an interim report to the 2012 Regular
51 Session of the 2011 General Assembly and shall make a final report to the 2013 General

1 Assembly. The report shall include any proposed legislation. The Commission shall terminate
2 upon filing its final report or upon the convening of the 2013 General Assembly, whichever is
3 earlier.

4 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.