GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

Н

HOUSE BILL 1077

Short Title: Access to Health Insurance Study. (Publi	ic)
Sponsors: Representatives Jeralds; Luebke, Oldham, and Warner.	
Referred to: Human Resources.	
April 24, 1991	
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY ON ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE.	
Whereas, providing uninsured North Carolinians with access to affordable	e
health insurance is a public policy issue of high priority; and	
Whereas, at any one time nearly one in every seven North Carolinians is	S
without health insurance; and	
Whereas, the lack of access to health insurance is also a national problem	n
which affects between 33 million and 37 million Americans; Now, therefore,	
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:	
Section 1. The Commission on Access to Health Insurance is created. The	
Commission shall design a program to ensure that all citizens of the State have access to	
affordable health insurance that provides coverage for basic health care needs. In designing the program, the Commission shall consider:	11
(1) Programs the State could implement to provide health insurance	6
coverage at an affordable price to all North Carolinians, including	
the feasibility of:	Ð
a. An employer based health insurance plan, which would	d
include a State pool to cover those who are not in the	
labor force, and the need for tax incentives to enable	e
certain employers to offer health insurance; and	
b. A comprehensive single payor plan, based on the Canadian health care model.	e
(2) Methods of containing the rising costs of health insurance.	
(3) The need for health insurance reform.	

(4) The benefits to be included in a basic health care package. 1 2 (5) How the Access Forum, convened by the North Carolina Institute 3 of Medicine, and other states have proposed to address the problem surrounding access to adequate and affordable health insurance. 4 5 Sec. 2. The Commission shall consist of 26 members as follows: 6 **(1)** The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint nine 7 members as follows: five members of the House of 8 Representatives; one member who is the president or vice-president 9 of a business employing less than 20 employees; one member who 10 represents a health maintenance organization that provides health care in the State; one member who is a hospital administrator; and 11 12 one member who is a public member who is uninsured; The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint nine 13 (2) 14 members as follows: five members of the Senate; one member 15 who is the president or vice-president of a business employing 16 more than 100 employees; one member who is a health care 17 provider; one member who represents an insurance company that 18 provides health insurance coverage in this State; and one public 19 member who is knowledgeable about the problems of the 20 uninsured; 21 (3) The President of the North Carolina Medical Society, or his 22 representative: The President of the North Carolina Hospital Association, or his 23 **(4)** 24 representative; 25 (5) The Commissioner of Insurance, or Deputy Commissioner of 26 Insurance: 27 (6) President of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry; President of Merchants Association: 28 **(7)** 29 (8) The President of the Foundation for Alternative Health Programs; 30 (9) The President of the State Employees Association of North 31 Carolina; and 32 The President of the North Carolina AFL-CIO. 33 Vacancies in the membership appointed under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section shall be filled by the official who made the initial appointment using the same 34 35 criteria as provided in this section.

criteria as provided in this section.

All initial appointments shall be made within 30 days of the effective date of this act.

Sec. 3. 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.

Sec. 4. In addition to its regular meetings, the Commission shall hold three public hearings across the State, to solicit input about the extent of the problem of the uninsured and underinsured, and potential solutions to ensure that all citizens have access to adequate and affordable health care.

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- Sec. 5. The Commission shall submit an interim report on the role of the State in solving the health insurance dilemma on or before the first day of the 1991 General Assembly, Regular Session 1992, by filing the report with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Sec. 6. The Commission shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before the first day of the 1993 Session of the General Assembly by filing the report with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Upon filing its final report, the Commission shall terminate.
- Sec. 7. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5 and 138-6, as applicable.
- Sec. 8. The Commission may contract for clerical or professional staff or for any other services it may require in the course of its ongoing study. At the request of the Commission, the Legislative Services Commission may supply members of the staff of the Legislative Services Office and clerical assistance to the Commission as the Legislative Services Commission deems appropriate. The Commission may, with the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, meet in the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.
- Sec. 9. The Commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, or contributions from any source. These funds shall be held in a separate account and used solely in furtherance of the study.
- Sec. 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General Assembly for fiscal year 1991-92 the sum of \$100,000 and for fiscal year 1992-93 the sum of \$100,000 for the expenses of the Commission.
 - Sec. 11. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.