

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1108**

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Sponsors: Senators Forrester; Richardson, Walker, Marvin, Carpenter, Ballance, and Carter.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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June 2, 1992

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON  
2 ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE TO STUDY THE SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY  
3 CARE PHYSICIANS IN RURAL NORTH CAROLINA AND TO APPROPRIATE  
4 FUNDS FOR THE STUDY.

5 Whereas, across North Carolina many residents are facing an access to health  
6 care crisis; and

7 Whereas, getting needed care requires access to both health insurance and  
8 health care providers (physicians); and

9 Whereas, the General Assembly has created the Access to Health Insurance  
10 Study Commission to study the first component of the shortage crisis; and

11 Whereas, the General Assembly has a responsibility to play a major role in  
12 alleviating the access to health care crisis, which is really a maldistribution of  
13 physicians with 26 entire counties and 19 other counties either have no generalist  
14 physician or have severely limited access to a generalist physician, with approximately  
15 1.2 million North Carolinians not having a generalist physician in their town or county;

16 Now, therefore,

17 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

18 Section 1. The Commission on Access to Primary Care is created. "Primary  
19 care" means the practice of general family medicine, general internal medicine, or  
20 general pediatric medicine.

21 Sec. 2. The Commission shall study the issues involved with the critical  
22 shortage of primary care physicians and the impact of this shortage on the access to

1 health care. In conducting its study and making its recommendations, the Commission  
2 may consider:

- 3 (1) The shortage of primary care physicians.
- 4 (2) The impact of the primary care physician shortage on the health care  
5 delivery system, particularly in the rural and underserved areas of the  
6 State.
- 7 (3) The recommendations of the Joint Report of The North Carolina  
8 Academy of Family Physicians, The Pediatric Society, and The  
9 Society of Internal Medicine entitled: "The Crisis in Access to Health  
10 Care."
- 11 (4) The actions taken by other states who have faced similar problems  
12 attracting generalist physicians which could be implemented in North  
13 Carolina.
- 14 (5) Programs and strategies for medical education that the State could  
15 implement on a short-term basis and a long-term basis.
- 16 (6) Recommendations for legislative policy and actions that would be  
17 implemented or enacted to address the shortage.

18 Sec. 3. The Commission shall have 18 members appointed in the following  
19 manner:

- 20 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three  
21 members of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
22 appointed as cochair of the Commission.
- 23 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three members  
24 of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed as cochair of the  
25 Commission.
- 26 (3) The General Assembly shall appoint the following members upon the  
27 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in  
28 accordance with G.S. 120-121:
  - 29 a. Four primary care physicians who are currently practicing  
30 medicine in the State of North Carolina, with one each  
31 appointed from the following organizations: The North Carolina  
32 Academy of Family Physicians, The Society of Internal  
33 Medicine, The Pediatric Society, and The North Carolina  
34 Medical Society;
  - 35 b. One representative of a constituent institution of the University  
36 of North Carolina which has a medical school; and
  - 37 c. One representative of The University of North Carolina.
- 38 (4) The General Assembly shall appoint the following members upon the  
39 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in  
40 accordance with G.S. 120-121:
  - 41 a. Three chairpersons of medical school departments from medical  
42 schools located in North Carolina representing the following  
43 disciplines: one from a Department of Family Medicine, one

1 from a Department of Internal Medicine, and one from a  
2 Department of Pediatric Medicine;

3 b. One representative of The Area Urban Education Center;

4 c. One representative of The Office of Rural Health; and

5 d. One dean of a medical school located in North Carolina.

6 Sec. 4. The legislative members of the Commission shall receive per diem  
7 and reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1. Public  
8 members of the Commission shall not receive subsistence, per diem, or travel expenses.

9 Sec. 5. The Commission shall submit its report, findings, and  
10 recommendations to the General Assembly prior to the first day of the 1993 Session of  
11 the General Assembly.

12 Sec. 6. The Commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, or contributions  
13 from any source. These funds shall be kept in a separate account and used solely in  
14 furtherance of the study.

15 Sec. 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative  
16 Services Commission the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 1992-  
17 93 fiscal year to fund the study conducted by the Commission on Access to Primary  
18 Care created by Section 1 of this act.

19 Sec. 8. This act is effective upon ratification.