

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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SENATE BILL 82

Select Committee on Courts Committee Substitute Adopted 2/16/94

Short Title: Welfare Reform Study.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to: Appropriations

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February 11, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON WELFARE REFORM,  
2 WHICH REFORM WILL EFFECT SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM CRIME  
3 PREVENTION.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. There is created the Legislative Study Commission on Welfare  
7 Reform. The Commission shall consist of 10 members as follows:

- 8 (1) Three Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;  
9 (2) Two persons appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
10 who are not members of the General Assembly;  
11 (3) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and  
13 (4) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives who are not members of the General Assembly.

15 Sec. 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one Senator  
16 as cochair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one  
17 Representative as cochair.

18 Sec. 3. The Commission shall study the whole issue of the need for welfare  
19 reform in light of the current social crisis caused, in part, by the rapidly increasing  
20 incidence of violent crimes committed by people who have been raised by families who  
21 have been receiving welfare but who have not been able to impart responsibility and  
22 maturity of judgment and expectations to their children. This study shall include:

- 1 (1) A reexamination of the whole purpose of the welfare system and an  
2 identification of those disincentives to raising responsible, independent  
3 participants in society that are built into the system;
- 4 (2) An analysis of the federal welfare reform proposals and of other states'  
5 initiatives; and
- 6 (3) A compilation and detailed examination, including detailed fiscal  
7 analysis, of proposals to reform the welfare system totally, not just to  
8 amend mere pieces of it.

9 Sec. 4. The Commission may submit an interim report to the General  
10 Assembly on or before the first day of the 1994 Regular Session of the 1993 General  
11 Assembly and shall submit a final report, including a complete proposal for welfare  
12 reform, to the 1995 General Assembly within one week of its convening, by filing the  
13 report with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives. Upon filing its final report, the Commission shall terminate.

15 Sec. 5. The Commission, while in the discharge of official duties, may  
16 exercise all the powers provided for under the provisions of G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-  
17 19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any time upon the joint call  
18 of the cochairs. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the  
19 Legislative Office Building.

20 Sec. 6. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel  
21 expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1.

22 Sec. 7. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant  
23 services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. The Legislative Services Commission, through  
24 the Legislative Administrative Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist in the  
25 work of the Commission. The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors  
26 of Clerks shall assign clerical staff to the Commission or committee, upon the direction  
27 of the Legislative Services Commission. The expenses relating to clerical employees  
28 shall be borne by the Commission.

29 Sec. 8. When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Commission, the  
30 vacancy shall be filled by the same appointing officer who made the initial appointment.

31 Sec. 9. All State departments and agencies and local governments and their  
32 subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or  
33 available to them.

34 Sec. 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General  
35 Assembly the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and  
36 the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year for the expenses  
37 of the Commission.

38 Sec. 11. This act is effective upon ratification.