

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

S

D

SENATE DRS75508-LR-220 (5/16)

Short Title: Establish Study Commission on Day Care/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jenkins.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AUTHORIZING A JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON
DAY CARE AND RELATED PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Whereas, the Day Care Subsidy Program is important to the well-being of children across the State because it:

- (1) Provides opportunities for adequate day care to families who would otherwise be unable to afford it.
- (2) Provides a safety net for those children in child protective supervision.
- (3) Provides employment opportunities.
- (4) Supports economic development.
- (5) Transitions families from welfare dependency to independence.
- (6) Provides opportunities for early childhood education.

Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development, reports that (i) in 2006 the State has used \$20 million in "one-time funds" with another \$15-\$17 million needed to sustain current enrollment of children to preclude a significant number of terminations and (ii) the current funding level is at one-third of the amount needed, and there are advocates for a market rate increase costing \$20 million; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of the State to establish a joint legislative study commission to study issues pertinent to day care, subsidies, and related programs; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) There is created the Legislative Study Commission on Day Care and Related Programs ("Commission"). The Commission shall consist of 12 members appointed as follows:

- 1 (1) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, to include:
3 a. Four members of the House of Representatives.
4 b. Two members of the general public.
5 (2) Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
6 include:
7 a. Four members of the Senate.
8 b. Two members of the general public.

9 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Commission shall:

- 10 (1) Assess the shortfalls and benefits of the various day care and related
11 programs.
12 (2) Consider needed adjustments, and possible program consolidations,
13 and the necessary reprioritization of funds to realize the maximum
14 benefit to the State's children and families.
15 (3) Consider how day care and related programs affect economic
16 development today and in the future.
17 (4) Review any other matter that the Commission finds relevant to its
18 charge.

19 The Commission shall report to the 2007 General Assembly. The report shall
20 include findings, recommendations, and legislative proposals. The Commission shall
21 terminate upon filing its final report.

22 **SECTION 2.** The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
23 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. The
24 Commission may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon
25 approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall
26 assign professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Commission. Clerical
27 staff shall be furnished to the Commission through the offices of the House of
28 Representatives and the Senate Directors of Legislative Assistants. The Commission
29 may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the
30 approval of the Legislative Services Commission. Members of the Commission shall
31 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances at the rate established in
32 G.S. 120-3.1. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies. The Commission, while in
33 the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all the powers provided under the
34 provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the power to request all
35 officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any information, data,
36 or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or otherwise
37 available to them and the power to subpoena witnesses.

38 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
39 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal
40 year to fund the work of the Commission created by this act.

41 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.