GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2005

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S SENATE BILL 1827

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

Sponsors: Senator Jenkins.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 24, 2006

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) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to include:
 - a. Four members of the House of Representatives.

1		b. Two members of the general public.
2	(2)	Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
3	(2)	include:
4		a. Four members of the Senate.
5		b. Two members of the general public.
6	SEC'	FION 1.(b) The Commission shall:
7	(1)	Assess the shortfalls and benefits of the various day care and related
8	, ,	programs.
9	(2)	Consider needed adjustments, and possible program consolidations,
10		and the necessary reprioritization of funds to realize the maximum
11		benefit to the State's children and families.
12	(3)	Consider how day care and related programs affect economic
13		development today and in the future.
14	(4)	Review any other matter that the Commission finds relevant to its
15		charge.
16	The Commission shall report to the 2007 General Assembly. The report shall	
17	include findings, recommendations, and legislative proposals. The Commission shall	
18	terminate upon filing its final report.	
19	SECTION 2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Presiden	
20	Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. The	
21	Commission may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upor	
22	approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall	
23	assign professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Commission. Clerical	
24	staff shall be furnished to the Commission through the offices of the House of	
25	Representatives and the Senate Directors of Legislative Assistants. The Commission	
26 27	may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services Commission. Members of the Commission shall	
28	receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances at the rate established in	
29	G.S. 120-3.1. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies. The Commission, while in	
30	the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all the powers provided under the	
31	provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the power to request all	
32	officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any information, data	
33	or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or otherwise	
34	available to them and the power to subpoena witnesses.	

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

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

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