

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 674\***

Short Title: Rail Service Study Commission. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Nesbitt; Allran, Dorsett, Forrester, Hartsell, Kinnaird, Presnell,  
and Snow.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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March 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON  
2 EXPANDING RAIL SERVICE.  
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Commission Established. – There is established in the  
6 General Assembly a Joint Legislative Commission on Expanding Rail Service.

7 **SECTION 1.(b)** Membership. – The Commission shall be composed of 16  
8 members as follows:

- 9 (1) Eight members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
11 (2) Eight members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
12 of the Senate.

13 **SECTION 1.(c)** Duties of Commission. – The Commission shall study the  
14 following matters related to expanding rail service in North Carolina:

- 15 (1) The cost and benefits of expanding and upgrading rail service in the  
16 State, including the effect the expanded service would have on  
17 economic development.  
18 (2) The feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing commuter rail service  
19 in the State to transport workers to cities from outlying areas,  
20 including the effect the commuter service would have on increasing  
21 the economic opportunities of those who live in the outlying areas.  
22 (3) The cost and benefits of expanding passenger rail service to the  
23 western and eastern areas of the State, including the effect the  
24 expanded service would have on tourism.  
25 (4) Ways to preserve unused or abandoned rail corridors for future rail  
26 needs.  
27 (5) Spurring economic development and tourism through further  
28 development of short-line railroads.

1           **SECTION 1.(d)** Vacancies. – Any vacancy on the Commission shall be  
2 filled by the appointing authority.

3           **SECTION 1.(e)** Cochairs. – Cochairs of the Commission shall be designated  
4 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
5 Senate from among their respective appointees. The Commission shall meet upon the  
6 call of the chairs. A quorum of the Commission shall be nine members.

7           **SECTION 1.(f)** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall  
8 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,  
9 138-5, or 138-1, as appropriate.

10          **SECTION 1.(g)** Staff. – Adequate staff shall be provided to the Commission  
11 by the Legislative Services Office.

12          **SECTION 1.(h)** Consultants. – The Commission may hire consultants to  
13 assist with the study. Before expending any funds for a consultant, the Commission  
14 shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the  
15 consultant selected, the work products to be provided by the consultant, and the cost of  
16 the contract, including an itemization of the cost components.

17          **SECTION 1.(i)** Cooperation. – The Commission may call upon any  
18 department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political subdivision  
19 thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance.

20          **SECTION 1.(j)** Meetings During Legislative Session. – The Commission  
21 may meet during a regular or extra session of the General Assembly, subject to approval  
22 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
23 Senate.

24          **SECTION 1.(k)** Meeting Location. – The Commission shall meet at various  
25 locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its  
26 deliberations. The Legislative Services Commission shall grant adequate meeting space  
27 to the Commission in the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

28          **SECTION 1.(l)** Report. – The Commission shall make an interim report of  
29 its findings and recommendations to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005 General  
30 Assembly and shall make a final report of its findings and recommendations to the 2007  
31 General Assembly. Upon the filing of its final report, the Commission shall terminate.

32          **SECTION 1.(m)** Appropriation. – Of the funds appropriated to the General  
33 Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate sufficient funds for the  
34 expenses of the Commission.

35          **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.