

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH50333-LE-237 (3/4)

Short Title: Econ. Dev. Thru Innovative Schools/Comm.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Glazier.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOBS COMMISSION.

3 Whereas, the Innovative Education Act became law in 2003; and

4 Whereas, as a result of said act, 52 Early/Middle College programs have been
5 developed as a collaboration between the public schools, the community colleges, and private
6 business; and

7 Whereas, these schools have generally evidenced a decrease in the dropout rate and,
8 as a result, have won national awards; and

9 Whereas, North Carolina has seven identified economic development regions, each
10 with its own challenges during changing economic times; and

11 Whereas, to be efficient with the taxpayers' dollars and to continue to reduce the
12 dropout rate and to prepare our students for twenty-first century jobs, it would be beneficial to
13 develop future Early/Middle College programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,
14 and Mathematics) school programs that have curriculums that prepare students to meet the
15 particular need of the respective economic development regions. In addition, it would be
16 beneficial to develop curriculums in some of these schools that address career areas that are
17 present in each region and that would address statewide needs; and

18 Whereas, 16 career clusters ranging from Vocational-Technical Programs such as
19 Manufacturing to Health Science, to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math have been
20 identified by the United States Department of Education; and

21 Whereas, it would be beneficial to create a commission to review the vision plans of
22 each region and the overall needs of each region and the overall need of the State to better
23 position each region, and to position the State, to compete in the regional, national, and global
24 economy; and

25 Whereas, the Commission should be charged to develop incrementally, standard
26 curriculums for these career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College and STEM
27 models and should be charged with monitoring the implementation of pilot programs in these
28 respective regions that will best suit the potential of the region and better prepare students for
29 the increased academic demands of a global economy; Now, therefore,

30 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

31 **SECTION 1.** There is established in the General Assembly a JOBS (Joining Our
32 Businesses and Schools) Commission.

33 **SECTION 2.** The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- 34 (1) The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chair;
35 (2) The chair of the State Board of Education or a designee;



- 1 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce or a designee;
- 2 (4) The President of the North Carolina Community College System;
- 3 (5) Three members appointed by the Governor;
- 4 (6) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
- 5 (7) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6 **SECTION 3.** The purpose of the Commission is to (i) develop incrementally, in
7 conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, standard curriculums for career clusters
8 and their corresponding career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College model and
9 (ii) monitor the implementation of pilot programs in the seven economic development regions
10 of the State that will best suit the needs of the regions and prepare students for the increased
11 academic demands of a global economy.

12 The Commission shall meet at least once in each economic development region
13 within the first eight months of its creation. In the course of the study, the Commission shall
14 consider the needs of the State as a whole and shall review the economic vision plans for each
15 region and other information it deems necessary and consider the growing need for technicians,
16 teachers, practitioners of allied health, including, but not limited to, nurses and doctors, and the
17 need for scientists and engineers and other critical areas. It shall also consider the technical and
18 vocational needs of each region.

19 The Commission shall report its recommendations to the State Board of Education.
20 In its report, it shall recommend at least four of the 16 career clusters identified by the United
21 States Department of Education that will best and most broadly serve the immediate needs of
22 the State and the respective regions. Thereafter, the State Board of Education, in consultation
23 with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop the curriculum for the career clusters
24 so recommended. The State Board of Education shall thereafter, for the 2010-2011 school year,
25 implement at least one JOBS Early/Middle College in each of the economic development
26 regions as recommended by the commission.

27 The Commission shall also continue to work on prioritizing and customizing the
28 remaining career clusters and identifying additional career paths following the report date and
29 shall subsequently report to the State Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Education
30 Oversight Committee by May 1, 2010.

31 The Commission shall work closely with the business community across the State
32 and shall encourage businesses and business leaders to partner with the Commission on the
33 work of the Commission and to establish public-private partnerships with the pilot schools.

34 The Commission may accept gifts and grant funds. Said gifts and grants may be
35 received for the purpose of defraying the expense of travel on a learning tour of innovative
36 schools both inside and out of the State.

37 **SECTION 4.** The chair may appoint an advisory committee in each economic
38 region to assist it in its work.

39 **SECTION 5.** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may
40 exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.
41 The Commission may meet at anytime upon the call of the chair. The Commission may meet in
42 the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

43 With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services
44 Officer shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of
45 Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to
46 the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the
47 Commission. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as
48 provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Commission hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a
49 State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.

50 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their subdivisions
51 shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or available to them.

1 **SECTION 6.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its
2 recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly no later than
3 February 1, 2010.

4 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.