

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 1038
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/09**

Short Title: Joining Our Businesses and Schools Commission. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOINING OUR BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS (JOBS)
COMMISSION.

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

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

Whereas, these schools have generally evidenced a decrease in their dropout rates and, as a result, have won national awards; and

Whereas, North Carolina has seven identified economic development regions, each with its own challenges in today's changing and demanding job market; and

Whereas, North Carolina has numerous innovative public and private programs based in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and

Whereas, to be efficient with the taxpayers' dollars, to continue to increase the graduation rate, and to prepare our students for twenty-first century jobs, it would be beneficial to map these innovative education programs, including the development of additional Early and Middle College programs and STEM programs, and other public and private education programs that have instructional programs that prepare students to meet the particular employment and workforce preparation needs of the respective economic development regions. In addition, it would be beneficial to develop curriculum frameworks that reflect innovative design principles in some of these schools that would address both regional and statewide employment needs; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Education has identified 16 career clusters as a tool to connect career technical education (CTE) to education, workforce preparation, and economic development; and

Whereas, the North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative/MCNC is supporting the creation of a replicable community visioning process, engaging business, policy, education, and community stakeholders in mapping their local needs and producing a plan for sustainable, local education innovation based in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

Whereas, it would be beneficial to position each region and the State to compete in the regional, national, and global economy by creating a commission to review the vision plans and overall needs of each economic development region as well as the overall needs of the State; and

Whereas, the Commission should advise the North Carolina Education Cabinet and specifically the Department of Public Instruction as they develop standard instructional programs for twenty-first century career paths in accordance with the Early and Middle College and STEM models and monitor the implementation of pilot programs in these respective



1 regions that will best suit the potential of the region and better prepare students for the
2 increased academic demands of a global economy; Now, therefore,
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** There is established the JOBS (Joining Our Businesses and Schools)
5 Commission (Commission).

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

- 7 (1) The Lieutenant Governor serving as the Chair.
- 8 (2) Four members appointed by the Governor.
- 9 (3) Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
10 to include:
 - 11 a. Two members of the House of Representatives.
 - 12 b. A representative of the Community College System.
 - 13 c. A representative of the Independent Colleges and Universities.
 - 14 d. A representative of the Department of Commerce.
 - 15 e. A representative of North Carolina's business and industry.
 - 16 f. A representative of North Carolina's school superintendents.
- 17 (4) Seven members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
18 include:
 - 19 a. Two members of the Senate.
 - 20 b. A representative of The University of North Carolina.
 - 21 c. A representative of the Department of Public Instruction.
 - 22 d. A representative of North Carolina's business and industry.
 - 23 e. A teacher.
 - 24 f. An individual with expertise in STEM education.
- 25 (5) The Executive Director of the Education Cabinet or the Executive Director's
26 designee, serving ex officio.

27 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall study issues related to economic development
28 through innovative schools where instructional program frameworks reflect the high academic
29 standards required of students to be successful as they transition to postsecondary education
30 and future careers, including:

- 31 (1) Technical and vocational needs of each economic development region;
- 32 (2) Employment and workforce preparation needs of the State as a whole;
- 33 (3) The economic vision plans for each economic development region;
- 34 (4) The shortage of highly skilled employees such as technicians, teachers,
35 allied health practitioners, including, but not limited to, nurses and doctors,
36 scientists, and engineers;
- 37 (5) The 16 career clusters identified by the United States Department of
38 Education as well as additional career paths;
- 39 (6) The development of a framework for assessment of readiness of a
40 community or region to support twenty-first century economic demands of
41 business and industry development and the scaling of innovative local
42 programs to impact broader numbers of individuals in communities around
43 the State; and
- 44 (7) Any other matter pertinent to connecting career technical education to
45 education, workforce preparation, and economic development through
46 innovative schools.

47 The Chair shall appoint from the Commission's membership a North Carolina
48 STEM Community Collaborative Advisory Committee (Community Collaborative) to ensure
49 that the efforts of the Commission and the Community Collaborative are aligned and that the
50 Commission is informed of the Community Collaborative's activities and that the Community
51 Collaborative is informed of the Commission's activities.

1 **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall (i) advise the North Carolina Education
2 Cabinet and specifically the Department of Public Instruction as they develop, incrementally,
3 standard instructional programs for career clusters and their corresponding career paths in
4 accordance with the Early and Middle College model, and (ii) monitor the implementation of
5 pilot programs in the seven economic development regions of the State that will best suit the
6 needs of the regions and prepare students for the increased academic demands of a global
7 economy.

8 **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall also study issues related to economic growth
9 by the creation of measures and metrics which define the readiness of a community to deliver,
10 to all stakeholders, the services that equip the workforce to be competitive in a STEM-intensive
11 economy, including ensuring that students throughout the education pipeline gain the skills
12 learned from science, technology, engineering, math, and other rigorous subjects. As a part of
13 its study, the Commission may examine issues related to:

- 14 (1) A replicable and perpetual model for aligning efforts of local business,
15 industry, policy, and education stakeholders in community engagement for
16 visioning student-centered learning;
- 17 (2) The documentation and study of the innovative education programs critical
18 for communities to be competitive in the STEM environment in the twenty-
19 first century;
- 20 (3) A framework to network these economic development regions, aligning
21 State, regional, and external investment in replicable innovation;
- 22 (4) Opportunities to leverage existing research, programs such as the College
23 Foundation of North Carolina Bridges program, and other resources to
24 maximize the impact of these existing resources and assets to avoid
25 duplication, to achieve greater economies of scale, and to broaden the impact
26 of these efforts by the most cost-effective means possible; and
- 27 (5) Any other topics deemed relevant by the Commission.

28 **SECTION 6.** The Commission shall, within the first eight months of its creation,
29 meet at least once in each economic development region. The Chair may appoint an advisory
30 committee in each economic development region to assist the Commission in its work.

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 shall be informed by the extensive work of The University of
35 North Carolina on the elementary and middle school fundamental building blocks for
36 secondary STEM success. This work should be a consideration for all communities which
37 engage in visioning student-centered learning. The Commission shall also be informed by the
38 North Carolina STEM program inventory conducted by The University of North Carolina and
39 make this inventory available to communities which engage in visioning student-centered
40 learning.

41 The Commission may accept grants and donations to help defray the cost of travel
42 on a learning tour of innovative schools both inside and out of the State subject to the
43 requirements of G.S. 138A, G.S. 120C, and Article 14 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes.

44 **SECTION 7.** The Commission shall report the results of its study to the State Board
45 of Education by March 1, 2010. In its report, the Commission shall recommend at least four of
46 the 16 career clusters identified by the United States Department of Education that will best and
47 most broadly serve the immediate employment and workforce preparation needs of the State
48 and the respective regions. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department
49 of Public Instruction, shall develop the instructional programs for the recommended career
50 clusters and shall implement beginning with the 2010-2011 school year at least one JOBS Early

1 or Middle College in each of the economic development regions as recommended by the
2 Commission.

3 After submitting its March 1, 2010, report, the Commission shall continue to
4 prioritize and customize the remaining career clusters and identify additional career paths, and
5 shall report their additional recommendations to the State Board of Education by April 1, 2010.

6 **SECTION 8.** Members of the Commission shall receive per diem, subsistence, and
7 travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate. The
8 Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for
9 under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any
10 time upon the call of the Chair. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the
11 Legislative Office Building.

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

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

21 **SECTION 9.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its
22 recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly and to the Joint
23 Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than May 15, 2010.

24 **SECTION 10.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.