

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE DRS35270-LB-143A (2/20)

Short Title: Study Retirement and Health Benefits.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Foriest.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY RETIREMENT AND
3 HEALTH BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is established the Special Commission to Study Retirement and
6 Health Benefits for Teachers and State Employees.

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Commission shall be composed of 14 members as follows:

8 (1) The State Treasurer or her designee.

9 (2) The Executive Administrator of the State Health Plan for Teachers and State
10 Employees.

11 (3) Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

12 (4) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13 (5) Four members appointed by the Governor.

14 Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the appointing authority. The
15 Commission shall choose from among its membership a chair and two vice-chairs. A quorum
16 of the Commission shall be nine members.

17 The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all
18 powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the
19 power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any
20 information, data, or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or
21 otherwise available to them, and the power to subpoena witnesses.

22 The Commission may meet at any time upon call of the chairs. The Commission
23 may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Commission may
24 contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

25 The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer,
26 shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of
27 Representatives' and Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to the
28 Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the
29 Commission. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the
30 rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** The initial meeting of the Commission shall be called by the State
32 Treasurer or her designee.

33 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall study retirement and health benefits for
34 teachers and state employees. As a part of its study, the Commission may examine issues
35 related to:



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- 1 (1) Whether the changing demographics among State employees require
- 2 changes to the current defined benefit plan and the health plan.
- 3 (2) Whether there is a need to establish a normal retirement age when retirement
- 4 and health benefits are to begin.
- 5 (3) Whether the retirement plan should have a defined contribution component.
- 6 (4) Whether the current benefits plan serves the need to recruit and retain the
- 7 best teachers and State employees.
- 8 (5) Any other issues the committee deems relevant to improvement of the
- 9 retirement systems and the State Health Plan.
- 10 (6) The relationship between the State Health Plan, the Teachers' and State
- 11 Employees' Retirement System, and the Disability Income Plan.

12 **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall make an interim report to the 2009 Regular
13 Session of the General Assembly prior to its reconvening in 2010 and shall make a final report
14 to the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly prior to its convening. The report shall
15 include any proposed legislation. The Commission shall terminate upon filing its final report or
16 upon the convening of the 2011 General Assembly, whichever is earlier.

17 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.