

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 213*
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/93

Short Title: Child Care Commission.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 19, 1993

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON CHILD
3 CARE ISSUES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
6 Article to read:

7 **"ARTICLE 12J.**

8 **"LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE ISSUES.**

9 **"§ 120-70.90. Commission established.**

10 The Legislative Commission on Child Care Issues is established as a permanent
11 commission. As used in this Article, the term 'Commission' means the Legislative
12 Commission on Child Care Issues.

13 **"§ 120-70.91. Powers and duties; study.**

14 The Commission shall study State government policy and programs affecting child
15 care issues, specifically addressing child care issues from the point of existing laws,
16 governmental programs needed or already functioning, and current child care issues.
17 The Commission shall work in close collaboration with all agencies and programs
18 dealing with child care. Among the issues the Commission may consider studying are:

- 19 (1) Prior recommendations of other study commissions that have reviewed
20 child day care and other child care services since 1980 and an
21 assessment of compliance with these recommendations;
22 (2) The advantages and costs associated with measures to improve the
23 quality of child care, including lowering staff/child ratios, enhancing

- 1 child care teaching credentialing, improving training of child care
2 teachers, and improving salaries of all child care workers;
3 (3) Ways to maximize the positive impact on North Carolina of the federal
4 block grant;
5 (4) Ongoing examination of the current statutory regulation of child care
6 and the procedures used to develop policies and rules in order to
7 ensure that all North Carolina's children in child care can receive
8 quality care that is both enriching and safe;
9 (5) The relationship between child care services offered by for-profit and
10 nonprofit, public and private, child care providers, including the public
11 schools, to ensure that parents have full choice of safe, quality child
12 care;
13 (6) Ways to continue towards the development of a unified State policy
14 for funding and delivery of all child care services; and
15 (7) Any additional issues the Commission may consider necessary to
16 study.

17 **§ 120-70.92. Membership; cochair; vacancies.**

18 The Commission shall consist of 15 members. Members serving ex officio may
19 designate other people to represent them:

- 20 (1) The Secretary of Human Resources;
21 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
22 (3) The Secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources;
23 (4) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
25 (5) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore
26 of the Senate;
27 (6) Two members at large appointed by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives, one of whom shall be from an urban area in the west
29 and one of whom shall be from a rural area in the east;
30 (7) Two members at large appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
31 whom shall be from a rural area in the west and one of whom shall be
32 from an urban area in the east; and
33 (8) Two members at large appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall
34 be from a rural area in the Piedmont and one of whom shall be from an
35 urban area in the Piedmont.

36 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointments. Ex officio
37 members are voting members.

38 The Commission shall have its initial meeting no later than September 1, 1993, at
39 the call of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore
40 of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
41 Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair from the membership of the
42 Commission. The membership shall meet upon the call of the cochair.

43 **§ 120-70.93. Compensation and expenses of members.**

1 The Commission members shall receive no salary for serving but shall receive
2 necessary subsistence and travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S.
3 120-3.1, 138-5, and 138-6 as applicable.

4 **"§ 120-70.94. Additional powers.**

5 The Commission may hold public meetings across the State to solicit public input
6 with respect to the issues of child care.

7 The Commission shall have authority to obtain information and data from all State
8 officers, agents, agencies, and departments while in the discharge of its duties, pursuant
9 to the provisions of G.S. 120-19, as if it were a committee of the General Assembly.

10 The Commission shall have the authority to call witnesses, compel testimony relevant to
11 any matter properly before the Commission, and subpoena relevant records and
12 documents. The provisions of G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4 shall apply to the
13 proceedings of the Commission as if it were a joint committee of the General Assembly.

14 In addition to the other signatures required for the issuance of a subpoena under this
15 section, the subpoena shall also be signed by the cochair of the Commission. Any cost
16 of providing information to the Commission not covered by G.S. 120-19.3 may be
17 reimbursed by the Commission from funds available for the Commission's work.

18 The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General
19 Assembly and the Governor no later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year. The
20 Commission may report no later than June 1 of each even-numbered year to the General
21 Assembly and the Governor.

22 **"§ 120-70.95. Staffing.**

23 At the request of the Commission, the Legislative Services Commission may supply
24 members of the staff of the Legislative Services Office and clerical assistance to the
25 Commission as it considers appropriate. The Commission may, with the approval of the
26 Legislative Services Commission, meet in the State Legislative Building or the
27 Legislative Office Building."

28 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
29 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year
30 and the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to
31 fund the Legislative Study Commission on Child Care Issues.

32 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.