

1 **SECTION 2.** Membership. –The Commission shall consist of 16 members
2 as follows:

- 3 (1) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore
4 of the Senate.
- 5 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the
6 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 7 (3) One representative from the public at large appointed by the President
8 Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 9 (4) One representative from the public at large appointed by the Speaker
10 of the House of Representatives.
- 11 (5) The State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designee.
- 12 (6) The Director of the Governor's Policy Office or the Director's
13 designee.
- 14 (7) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources or the
15 Secretary's designee.
- 16 (8) Three representatives from the public at large appointed by the
17 Governor.

18 **SECTION 3.** Cochairs. – The Commission shall have two cochairs, one
19 designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one designated by the
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives from among their respective appointees. The
21 Commission shall meet upon the call of the cochairs.

22 **SECTION 4.** Quorum. – A quorum of the Commission shall consist of nine
23 members.

24 **SECTION 5.** Vacancies. – Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled
25 by the original appointing authority.

26 **SECTION 6.** Purpose and Duties. – The Commission shall:

- 27 (1) Identify and evaluate the existing sources of State funding for: (i) the
28 public acquisition of land or interests in land to protect drinking water
29 quality and prevent polluted runoff, conserve rivers, wetlands,
30 floodplains, coastal waters, working farms, working forests, local
31 parks, State parks, game lands and other natural areas, urban forests,
32 and land visible from scenic highways in North Carolina; (ii) historic
33 preservation; and (iii) economic and community development tied to
34 land and water conservation and historic preservation.
- 35 (2) Collect research and information from North Carolina and other states
36 and jurisdictions regarding incentive based techniques and
37 management tools used to protect land and water and assess the
38 applicability of such tools and techniques to land conservation in
39 North Carolina.
- 40 (3) Prepare a draft report with a statement of the issues, a summary of the
41 research, and recommendations to address funding needs and other
42 issues affecting land and water conservation in North Carolina.
- 43 (4) Hold at least three public meetings, including at least one meeting in
44 the Mountains, Piedmont, and the Coastal Plain region of the State to

1 present the draft report and recommendations to the public and user
2 groups.

3 **SECTION 7.** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall
4 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,
5 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

6 **SECTION 8.** Staff. – Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Services
7 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to the
8 Commission to aid in its work.

9 **SECTION 9.** Consultants. – The Commission may hire consultants to assist
10 with the study as provided in G.S. 120-32.02(b).

11 **SECTION 10.** Meetings. – The Commission may meet in the Legislative
12 Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative
13 Services Commission.

14 **SECTION 11.** Report. – The Commission shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Environmental Review Commission
16 on or before 1 February 2007, at which time the Commission shall terminate.

17 **SECTION 12.** Funding. – From funds appropriated to the General
18 Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the purpose of
19 conducting the study provided for in this act.

20 **SECTION 13.** Effective Date. – This act is effective when it becomes law.