

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE DRS65152-LY-144 (3/3)**

Short Title: Study Furniture Technology Center.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Jacumin.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO  
STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR  
APPLIED FURNITURE TECHNOLOGY.

Whereas, the furniture industry has played an important role in the  
development of the State's economy; and

Whereas, the furniture industry in this State has experienced significant job  
losses over the past decade as these jobs have been moved overseas; and

Whereas, the preservation of the furniture industry in this State is dependent  
on developing, utilizing, and disseminating new and innovative technologies in this  
industry; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission may conduct a  
comprehensive study of the need for a North Carolina Center for Applied Furniture  
Technology. If the Commission undertakes the study, it shall include the following:

- (1) A review of the North Carolina Center for Applied Textile Technology  
and its role in supporting the textile industry in this State, another of  
this State's traditional industries that is experiencing rapid changes due  
to global economic factors.
- (2) The needs of the furniture industry in developing new technologies or  
processes in order to remain competitive in the global furniture market  
and the ways in which a North Carolina Center for Applied Furniture  
Technology could assist in the development and dissemination of those  
technologies and processes.

- 1           (3)    A review of the furniture industry in this State that analyzes the  
2                    strengths of the industry in this State and the strategic opportunities of  
3                    the industry.
- 4           (4)    A review of a proposed organizational structure of the Center,  
5                    specifically studying whether the Center should be established as a  
6                    freestanding institution or as a component part of an existing  
7                    community college or other institution.
- 8           (5)    A review of the funding needs of the proposed Center and ways to  
9                    provide for that funding through State or local appropriations or  
10                   private donations.
- 11          (6)    A review of existing federal, State, and local programs designed for or  
12                    used to assist the furniture industry and recommendations regarding  
13                    improvements to those programs or the establishment of new programs  
14                    to satisfy unmet needs.
- 15          (7)    Any other issue the Legislative Research Commission finds relevant to  
16                    this study.

17            In considering appointees to the committee to study this matter, the  
18    appointing authorities shall consider inclusion of representatives of the furniture  
19    industry.

20            The Legislative Research Commission may make an interim report of its  
21    findings and recommendations to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005 General  
22    Assembly and a final report to the 2007 General Assembly.

23            **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.