

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE DRH60120-MA-202 (3/6)**

Short Title: Rail Service Study Commission. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Rapp, Pate, and Dickson (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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- 1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON  
3 EXPANDING RAIL SERVICE.  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
5       **SECTION 1.(a)** Commission Established. – There is established in the  
6 General Assembly a Joint Legislative Commission on Expanding Rail Service. The  
7 Commission shall be composed of 16 members as follows:  
8       (1) Eight members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
9       Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
10       (2) Eight members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
11       of the Senate.  
12       **SECTION 1.(b)** Duties of Commission. – The Commission shall study the  
13 following matters related to expanding rail service in North Carolina:  
14       (1) The cost and benefits of expanding and upgrading rail service in the  
15       State, including the effect the expanded service would have on  
16       economic development.  
17       (2) The feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing commuter rail service  
18       in the State to transport workers to cities from outlying areas,  
19       including the effect the commuter service would have on increasing  
20       the economic opportunities of those who live in the outlying areas.  
21       (3) The cost and benefits of expanding passenger rail service to the  
22       western and eastern areas of the State, including the effect the  
23       expanded service would have on tourism.  
24       (4) Ways to preserve unused or abandoned rail corridors for future rail  
25       needs.

1           (5) Tax incentives for rail improvements to spur economic growth through  
2           further expansion and improvements of railroads, especially short  
3           lines.

4           Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled by the appointing authority.  
5           Cochairs of the Commission shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of  
6           Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from among their  
7           respective appointees. The Commission shall meet upon the call of the cochairs. A  
8           quorum of the Commission shall be nine members.

9           **SECTION 1.(c)** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall  
10          receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,  
11          138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

12          **SECTION 1.(d)** Staff. – Adequate staff shall be provided to the Commission  
13          by the Legislative Services Office.

14          **SECTION 1.(e)** Consultants. – The Commission may contract for  
15          professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

16          **SECTION 1.(f)** Cooperation. – The Commission may call upon any  
17          department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political subdivision  
18          thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance.

19          **SECTION 1.(g)** Meetings During Legislative Session. – The Commission  
20          may meet during a regular or extra session of the General Assembly, subject to approval  
21          of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
22          Senate.

23          **SECTION 1.(h)** Meeting Location. – The Commission shall meet at various  
24          locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its  
25          deliberations. The Legislative Services Commission shall grant adequate meeting space  
26          to the Commission in the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

27          **SECTION 1.(i)** Report. – The Commission shall make a final report of its  
28          findings and recommendations to the 2009 General Assembly. Upon the filing of its  
29          final report, the Commission shall terminate.

30          **SECTION 1.(j)** Appropriation. – Of the funds appropriated to the General  
31          Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the expenses of  
32          the Commission.

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