

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2544*
Committee Substitute Favorable 7/8/08

Short Title: Study Local Government Ethics.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
3 UNIFORM STANDARDS OF ETHICS PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Commission Established. – The Local Government Ethics
7 Study Commission is hereby established.

8 **SECTION 2.** Membership. – The Commission shall consist of 14 members
9 as follows:

- 10 (1) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
11 (2) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives.
13 (3) The president of North Carolina Association of County
14 Commissioners or that person's designee.
15 (4) The president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities or that
16 person's designee.
17 (5) The president of the North Carolina School Boards Association or that
18 person's designee.
19 (6) The president of the North Carolina Sheriffs Association or that
20 person's designee.
21 (7) The president of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds
22 or that person's designee.
23 (8) Three representatives from the public at large appointed by the
24 Governor.

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

1 **SECTION 4.** Quorum. – A quorum of the Commission shall consist of eight
2 members.

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

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

6 (1) Existing criminal and civil laws related to ethical conduct of local
7 elected officials, local appointed officials, and employees of local
8 governments.

9 (2) The prevalence of ethical codes of conduct adopted by local elected
10 officials and the contents of those codes.

11 (3) Disclosure of conflicts of interest by local elected officials, local
12 appointed officials, and employees of local governments, including
13 methods to accomplish public disclosure.

14 (4) Whether uniform statewide standards of ethical conduct should be
15 recommended.

16 (5) Any other matters pertinent to ethical conduct of local elected officials,
17 local appointed officials, and employees of local governments.

18 **SECTION 7.** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall
19 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,
20 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

21 **SECTION 8.** Staff. – The Legislative Services Officer shall assign
22 professional and clerical staff to the Commission to aid in its work.

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

25 **SECTION 10.** Meetings. – The Commission may meet in the Legislative
26 Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative
27 Services Commission.

28 **SECTION 11.** Report. – The Commission shall report its findings and
29 recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2008. The
30 Commission shall terminate on the date of the filing of its report, or December 31, 2008,
31 whichever occurs first.

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

35 **SECTION 13.** This act is effective when it becomes law.