GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

S

SENATE DRS55305-LE-166 (3/4)

Short Title:	Econ. Dev. thru Innovative Schools/Comm.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Malone, and Swindell.	
Referred to:		

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOBS COMMISSION.
3	Whereas, the Innovative Education Act became law in 2003; and
4	Whereas, as a result of said act, 52 Early/Middle College programs have been
5	developed as a collaboration between the public schools, the community colleges, and private
6	business; and
7	Whereas, these schools have generally evidenced a decrease in the dropout rate and,
8	as a result, have won national awards; and
9	Whereas, North Carolina has seven identified economic development regions, each
10	with its own challenges during changing economic times; and
11	Whereas, to be efficient with the taxpayers dollars and to continue to reduce the
12	dropout rate and to prepare our students for twenty-first century jobs, it would be beneficial to
13	develop future Early/Middle College programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,
14	and Mathematics) school programs that have curriculums that prepare students to meet the
15	particular need of the respective economic development regions. In addition, it would be
16	beneficial to develop curriculums in some of these schools that address career areas that are
17	present in each region and that would address statewide needs; and
18	Whereas, 16 career clusters ranging from Vocational-Technical Programs such as
19	Manufacturing to Health Science, to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math have been
20	identified by the United States Department of Education; and
21	Whereas, it would be beneficial to create a commission to review the vision plans of
22	each region and the overall needs of each region and the overall need of the State to better
23	position each region, and to position the State, to compete in the regional, national, and global
24	economy; and
25	Whereas, the Commission should be charged to develop incrementally, standard
26	curriculums for these career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College and STEM
27	models and should be charged with monitoring the implementation of pilot programs in these
28	respective regions that will best suit the potential of the region and better prepare students for
29	the increased academic demands of a global economy; Now, therefore,
30	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
31	SECTION 1. There is established in the General Assembly a JOBS (Joining Our
32	Businesses and Schools) Commission.
33	SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of the following members:
34 25	 The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chair; The shair of the State Board of Education or a designed.
35	(2) The chair of the State Board of Education or a designee;
	* D R S 5 5 3 0 5 - L E - 1 6 6 *

D

	General Assembly of North Carolina Session 2009
1	(3) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce or a designee;
2	(4) The President of the North Carolina Community College System;
3	(5) Three members appointed by the Governor;
4	(6) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
5	(7) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
6	SECTION 3. The purpose of the Commission is to (i) develop incrementally, in
7	conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, standard curriculums for career clusters
8	and their corresponding career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College model and
9	(ii) monitor the implementation of pilot programs in the seven economic development regions
10	of the State that will best suit the needs of the regions and prepare students for the increased
11	academic demands of a global economy.
12	The Commission shall meet at least once in each economic development region
13	within the first eight months of its creation. In the course of the study, the Commission shall
14	consider the needs of the State as a whole and shall review the economic vision plans for each
15	region and other information it deems necessary and consider the growing need for technicians,
16	teachers, practitioners of allied health, including, but not limited to, nurses and doctors, and the
17	need for scientists and engineers and other critical areas. It shall also consider the technical and
18	vocational needs of each region.
19	The Commission shall report its recommendations to the State Board of Education.
20	In its report, it shall recommend at least four of the 16 career clusters identified by the United
21	States Department of Education that will best and most broadly serve the immediate needs of
22	the State and the respective regions. Thereafter, the State Board of Education, in consultation
23	with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop the curriculum for the career clusters
24	so recommended. The State Board of Education shall thereafter, for the school year
25	2010-2011, implement at least one JOBS Early/Middle College in each of the economic
26	development regions as recommended by the commission.
27	The Commission shall also continue to work on prioritizing and customizing the
28	remaining career clusters and identifying additional career paths following the report date and
29	shall subsequently report to the State Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Education
30	Oversight Committee by May 1, 2010.
31	The Commission shall work closely with the business community across the State
32	and shall encourage businesses and business leaders to partner with the Commission on the
33	work of the Commission and to establish public-private partnerships with the pilot schools.
34	The Commission may accept gifts and grant funds. Said gifts and grants may be
35	received for the purpose of defraying the expense of travel on a learning tour of innovative
36	schools both inside and out of the State.
37	SECTION 4. The chair may appoint an advisory committee in each economic
38	region to assist it in its work.
39	SECTION 5. The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may
40	exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.
41	The Commission may meet at any time upon the call of the chair. The Commission may meet
42	in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.
43	With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services
44	Officer shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of
45	Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to
46 47	the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the
47 48	Commission. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as
48 49	provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Commission hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.
49 50	State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.
50 51	All State departments and agencies and local governments and their subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or available to them.
51	shan runnish the Commission with any information in their possession of available to them.

General Assembly of North Carolina

- **SECTION 6.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly no later than 1 2 3 February 1, 2010. 4
 - SECTION 7. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.