

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1995**

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**SENATE BILL 1088**

Short Title: School Funding Study Commission.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Winner and Plexico.

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Referred to: Appropriations

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May 4, 1995

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION TO STUDY SCHOOL FUNDING.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**Section 1. Establishment of Commission.**

There is established the Commission to Study Education Funding. The Commission shall be located administratively under the State Board of Education but shall exercise all its prescribed statutory powers independently of the State Board of Education.

**Sec. 2. Commission membership; chairs; term of office; vacancies.**

(a) The Commission shall consist of 25 members appointed as follows:

(1) One county commissioner, one member of a local board of education, one representative of a North Carolina business or industry who hires graduates of North Carolina public schools, one parent of a public school child who is an officer in that public school's parent-teacher organization, and one member who shall serve as chair, appointed by the Governor;

(2) Three members of the Senate, one county commissioner, one member of a local board of education, one public school teacher, one superintendent of a local school administrative unit, and one representative of a North Carolina business or industry who hires

1 graduates of North Carolina public schools, appointed by the President  
2 Pro Tempore of the Senate;

3 (3) Three members of the House of Representatives, one county  
4 commissioner, one member of a local board of education, one public  
5 school principal, one school finance officer, and one parent of a public  
6 school child who is an officer in that public school's parent-teacher  
7 organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

8 (4) Two members appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;  
9 and

10 (5) Two members of the State Board of Education appointed by the chair of  
11 the State Board of Education.

12 In making appointments of county commissioners, members of local boards of education,  
13 and educators under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this section, the appointing  
14 authorities should consider the different geographic areas of the State and the different  
15 sizes of the counties. Appointments to the Commission shall be made prior to August 1,  
16 1995.

17 (b) Commission members shall serve until the Commission completes its work. If  
18 a vacancy occurs, the appointing officer shall appoint another person to serve for the  
19 balance of the unexpired term.

20 **Sec. 3. Duties.**

21 The Commission shall study:

22 (1) The method and adequacy of funding for public schools in North  
23 Carolina, including the relative roles of the State and the counties in  
24 funding operating costs, facilities costs, and other costs, and the  
25 differing needs and ability to pay of different counties; and

26 (2) Alternative methods of resolving disputes between local boards of  
27 education and boards of county commissioners concerning local funding  
28 of the public schools.

29 **Sec. 4. Report; termination of Commission.**

30 The Commission shall submit annual reports of its findings and  
31 recommendations at least 45 days before the convening of the Regular Session of the  
32 General Assembly and may make additional reports as it deems necessary. The  
33 Commission shall file its reports with the Governor, the Superintendent of Public  
34 Instruction, the chair of the State Board of Education, the President Pro Tempore of the  
35 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Upon filing a final report in  
36 1999, the Commission shall terminate.

37 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance.**

38 The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, and consultant  
39 services. Professional and clerical staff positions for the Commission may be filled by  
40 persons whose services are loaned to the Commission to fulfill the work of the  
41 Commission.

42 **Sec. 6. Meeting rooms; administrative support.**

1           The State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction shall  
2 provide meeting rooms, telephones, office space, equipment, and supplies to the  
3 Commission and shall be reimbursed from the Commission's budget.

4           Sec. 7. Compensation.

5           Commission members shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel  
6 allowances in accordance with G.S. 138-5, 138-6, or 120-3.1, as appropriate.

7           Sec. 8. Assistance of other State agencies.

8           The State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, the  
9 Department of Community Colleges, the Board of Governors of The University of North  
10 Carolina, and other agencies of State government shall assist the Commission, upon  
11 request, in carrying out its work.

12          Sec. 9. **Funds.**

13          There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of Education  
14 the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the 1995-96 fiscal year and the  
15 sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the 1996-97 fiscal year for the  
16 expenses of the Commission to Study Education Funding.

17          Sec. 10. Effective date.

18          This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.