

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE DRH70573-SQz-7 (04/11)

Short Title: NC Health Care System Study Commission. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, England, Nye, Wright (Primary Sponsors); Pate, Ross, Current, Fisher, and Tucker.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO CREATE A JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ESTABLISHING A
3 FORMAL PLAN FOR TRANSITIONING FROM THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF
4 DELIVERING HEALTH CARE TO A SYSTEM THAT COVERS ALL NORTH
5 CAROLINIANS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE SELECT
6 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE.

7 Whereas, nations that assure health care for all spend significantly less per
8 capita and as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product on health care than the U.S.; and

9 Whereas, in many of these nations a basic health care plan for all residents
10 effectively coexists with supplemental private sector plans; and

11 Whereas, these same nations have health care systems that achieve better
12 health care outcomes than those achieved in the U.S.; and

13 Whereas, the health care outcomes in North Carolina are considered at or
14 below average when compared to other states in the nation; and

15 Whereas, investing in a health care model that covers all North Carolinians
16 and includes early intervention and personal responsibility will reduce State health
17 expenditures while improving health care outcomes and will make North Carolina's
18 business climate more appealing while making North Carolina businesses more
19 competitive in the global market; and

20 Whereas, our current system leads hospitals to spend millions of dollars on
21 emergency department improvements that lead to higher hospital admissions while
22 proven, more cost-effective, early intervention models struggle for funding; and

23 Whereas, the large and growing numbers of the uninsured are left out of the
24 medical expense bargaining process; and

25 Whereas, our current health care system requires the uninsured to pay at
26 higher rates than the insured; and

1 Whereas, North Carolinians overwhelmingly believe the General Assembly
2 should assure all North Carolinians have access to health care; and

3 Whereas, we have a unique opportunity where creating a just health care
4 system will provide significant economic advantages to the State, its residents, and to
5 North Carolina businesses; Now, therefore,

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Commission Established. – There is established in the
8 General Assembly a Joint Legislative Commission on Transitioning to a Health Care
9 System that Covers All North Carolinians.

10 **SECTION 1.(b)** Membership. – The Commission shall consist of eight
11 members as follows:

12 (1) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

14 (2) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore
15 of the Senate.

16 **SECTION 1.(c)** Duties of the Commission. – The Commission shall study
17 the need for a health care system that covers all North Carolinians. The Commission
18 shall establish a formal plan for transitioning from the current fragmented system of
19 delivering health care to a system that covers all North Carolinians and may propose
20 legislation, including constitutional amendments if necessary, to implement the plan.

21 **SECTION 1.(d)** Vacancies. – A vacancy shall be filled by the officer who
22 made the original appointment.

23 **SECTION 1.(e)** Cochairs. – The Speaker of the House of Representatives
24 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate cochairs of the
25 Commission from among their respective appointees. The Commission shall meet upon
26 the call of the cochairs. A quorum of the Commission shall be four members.

27 **SECTION 1.(f)** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Commission shall
28 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,
29 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

30 **SECTION 1.(g)** Staff. – The Legislative Services Commission, through the
31 Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in
32 its work. The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors of Clerks shall
33 assign clerical staff to the Commission, and the expenses related to the clerical
34 employees shall be borne by the Commission.

35 **SECTION 1.(h)** Consultants. – The Commission may employ consultants to
36 assist with the study as provided in G.S. 120-32.02. Before expending any funds for a
37 consultant, the Commission shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on
38 Governmental Operations on the consultant selected, the work products to be provided
39 by the consultant, and the cost of the contract, including an itemization of the cost
40 components.

41 **SECTION 1.(i)** Meeting Location. – Subject to the approval of the
42 Legislative Services Commission, the Commission may meet in the State Legislative
43 Building or the Legislative Office Building.

1 **SECTION 1.(j)** Report. – The Commission shall submit a final report of its
2 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 31,
3 2006. Upon the filing of its final report, the Commission shall terminate.

4 **SECTION 1.(k)** Funds. – Of the funds appropriated to the General
5 Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds to implement the
6 provisions of this section.

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