

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE BILL 641
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/24/05**

Short Title: Nanotechnology/Economic Development Study. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 15, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT CREATING THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON
NANOTECHNOLOGY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The General Assembly finds that development of a coordinated response to the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging nanotechnologies would greatly expand opportunities for all North Carolinians to obtain and retain challenging and economically rewarding employment and would provide key assistance to the State's traditional industries by making them more competitive in the global economy of the future. To that end, there is created the Legislative Study Commission on Nanotechnology ("Commission"). The Commission shall consist of 14 members appointed as follows:

(1) Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to include:

- a. Four members of the House of Representatives.
- b. One person from a private emerging technology business or firm employing 200 or more employees in this State.
- c. One person employed by a college or university in this State who is an expert or researcher in nanotechnology or a related emerging technology.
- d. One member of the general public.

(2) Seven members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to include:

- a. Four members of the Senate.
- b. One person from a private emerging technology business or firm employing fewer than 200 employees in this State.
- c. One person employed by a college or university in this State who is an expert or researcher in nanotechnology or a related emerging technology.

1 d. One member of the general public.

2 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Commission shall study and develop a coordinated
3 approach to promoting economic growth in North Carolina through the promotion of
4 emerging nanotechnologies, the science of the very small. In particular, the Commission
5 shall examine, and make recommendations concerning, the following:

- 6 (1) The promotion and development of a critical mass of coordinated
7 nanocapabilities in North Carolina.
8 (2) The development and exploitation of leading-edge nanotechnologies.
9 (3) The promotion of industries and economic development centered on
10 these new engineering, materials, and biological technologies.
11 (4) Policy and regulatory issues related to the application and use of
12 nanotechnology.

13 **SECTION 2.** The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. The
15 Commission may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon
16 approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall
17 assign professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Commission. Clerical
18 staff shall be furnished to the Commission through the offices of the House of
19 Representatives and the Senate Directors of Legislative Assistants. The Commission
20 may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the
21 approval of the Legislative Services Commission. Members of the Commission shall
22 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances at the rate established in
23 G.S. 120-3.1. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies.

24 The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all
25 the powers provided under the provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4,
26 including the power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the
27 State to provide any information, data, or documents within their possession,
28 ascertainable from their records, or otherwise available to them, and the power to
29 subpoena witnesses.

30 **SECTION 3.** The Commission's interim and final reports shall include the
31 results of the Commission's study as well as recommendations, legislative and
32 otherwise. The Commission shall submit an interim report to the 2006 Regular Session
33 of the 2005 General Assembly. The Commission shall make a final report to the 2007
34 General Assembly and shall terminate upon filing its final report.

35 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
36 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal
37 year and the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal
38 year to fund the work of the Commission.

39 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.