



1           **SECTION 1.** There is created the Study Commission on Workforce  
2 Preparation in the Public Schools. The Commission shall consist of 12 members as  
3 follows:

- 4           (1) One businessperson, one school administrator, one representative from  
5 the Community College System, and one other educator, appointed by  
6 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- 7           (2) One businessperson, one vocational education teacher, one  
8 representative of a new high school funded through the North Carolina  
9 New Schools Project, and one other educator, appointed by the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 11           (3) Two senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;  
12 and
- 13           (4) Two representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives.

15           The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint a cochair, and the  
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a cochair for the Commission.  
17 The Commission may meet at anytime upon the joint call of the cochairs. Vacancies on  
18 the Commission shall be filled by the same appointing authority as made the initial  
19 appointment.

20           **SECTION 2.** In the course of the study, the Commission shall:

- 21           (1) Consider the State's progress in meeting the student performance  
22 benchmarks required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;
- 23           (2) Assess the effectiveness of workforce preparation strategies;
- 24           (3) Assess efficiency within workforce preparation strategies;
- 25           (4) Evaluate the preparedness of North Carolina high school graduates by:  
26           a. Studying remediation rates and efforts at the community  
27 colleges,  
28           b. Studying remediation rates and efforts at the constituent  
29 institutions of The University of North Carolina, and  
30           c. Surveying representatives of business and industry and of the  
31 United States Department of Defense. The survey shall elicit  
32 information on how well high school graduates are prepared  
33 with regard to basic skills and knowledge, how well high school  
34 graduates are prepared with regard to job-oriented skills, and  
35 how business, industry, and the military are addressing any  
36 deficiencies they encounter; and
- 37           (5) Study any other issues the Commission considers relevant.

38           **SECTION 3.** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties,  
39 may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through  
40 G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant  
41 services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

42           Subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the  
43 Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.  
44 The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, shall

1 assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of  
2 Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors of Clerks shall assign clerical support staff  
3 to the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne  
4 by the Commission. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel  
5 expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

6       **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall submit a final report to the State Board  
7 of Education, the Department of Labor, and the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005  
8 General Assembly. The report shall include recommended changes to workforce  
9 preparation strategies to ensure efficiency such as (i) strategies for consolidating State  
10 worker training programs and (ii) State partnerships with business and industry to  
11 support private training programs.

12               The Commission shall terminate upon submission of its final report.

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