

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

H

1

HOUSE BILL 151

Short Title: Root Out Poverty/Task Force Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pierce (Primary Sponsor).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 27, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT CREATING A STATEWIDE POVERTY TASK FORCE; ESTABLISHING TWO  
3 NEW PERSONNEL POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
4 SERVICES DEDICATED TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC  
5 RECOVERY; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
8 Article to read:

9 "Article 80.

10 "Statewide Poverty Task Force.

11 "**§ 143-750. Statewide Poverty Task Force.**

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that poverty in this State is widespread, especially  
13 among minorities and in rural areas and other parts of the State that have lost significant  
14 numbers of jobs. Further, the General Assembly finds that a statewide coordinated effort is  
15 required to maximize the State's resources to reduce and potentially eradicate poverty among  
16 citizens able and willing to work. To that end, there is created the North Carolina Statewide  
17 Poverty Task Force. The Task Force shall be located within the Department of Health and  
18 Human Services, which shall provide space for Task Force meetings.

19 (b) The Task Force shall consist of 30 voting members appointed as follows:

20 (1) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to  
21 include the following:

22 a. Five members of the House of Representatives.

23 b. Five members of the general public, including persons with expertise  
24 in the fields of (i) business and economic development, (ii) job  
25 training and adult education, (iii) public health, (iv) affordable  
26 housing, and (v) faith-based initiatives.

27 (2) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to  
28 include the following:

29 a. Five members of the Senate.

30 b. Five members of the general public, including persons with expertise  
31 in the fields of (i) early childhood education, (ii) public safety, (iii)  
32 health disparities, (iv) child welfare, and (v) higher education.

33 (3) Ten members appointed by the Governor, to include the following:

34 a. Eight members of the general public.



- 1                    b. One member appointed upon the recommendation of the North  
2                    Carolina Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of  
3                    Colored People.  
4                    c. One member appointed upon the recommendation of the North  
5                    Carolina Latino Coalition.

6        (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following nonvoting, ex officio members:

- 7                    (1) The Commissioner of Labor, or that officer's designee.  
8                    (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or that officer's designee.  
9                    (3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or that  
10                    officer's designee.  
11                    (4) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation, or that officer's designee.  
12                    (5) The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
13                    Prevention, or that officer's designee.  
14                    (6) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or that officer's designee.  
15                    (7) The Chairman of the Employment Security Commission, or that officer's  
16                    designee.  
17                    (8) The Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

18        (d) The Task Force shall:

- 19                    (1) Identify long- and short-range goals for eliminating poverty in North  
20                    Carolina.  
21                    (2) Develop a coordinated, integrated, ongoing approach among State agencies,  
22                    departments, and institutions to reduce poverty in the State by establishing  
23                    and implementing poverty reduction targets.

24        (e) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
25        Senate each shall appoint a cochair for the Task Force. The Task Force may contract for  
26        consultant services. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies on the Task Force.

27        (f) The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official duties, has the power to request  
28        all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any information, data, or  
29        documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or otherwise available to  
30        them. The Task Force has the power to subpoena witnesses.

31        (g) By March 1 of each year, the Task Force shall submit an annual report to the  
32        Governor and to the General Assembly on its poverty reduction and economic recovery  
33        recommendations. Beginning January 1, 2015, and every two years thereafter, the Task Force  
34        shall determine whether there has been a reduction in poverty in the State. When the Task  
35        Force determines that poverty has been reduced by at least fifty percent (50%) from the  
36        effective date of this act, the Task Force shall make a final report to the General Assembly to  
37        that effect. The Task Force shall terminate upon filing the final report.

38        **"§ 143-751. Member expenses and travel reimbursements.**

39        Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation but may receive travel and  
40        subsistence as follows:

- 41                    (1) Members who are officials or employees of a State agency or unit of local  
42                    government, in accordance with G.S. 138-6.  
43                    (2) Members who serve in the General Assembly, in accordance with  
44                    G.S. 120-3.1.  
45                    (3) All other members at the rate established in G.S. 138-5."

46        **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
47        Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the  
48        2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the  
49        2014-2015 fiscal year to fund the work of the Task Force pursuant to this act.

50        **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
51        Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the

1 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the  
2 2014-2015 fiscal year to fund the salaries and support costs associated with two new personnel  
3 positions in that Department dedicated to staffing the Task Force and implementing the  
4 interdepartmental collaboration among State agencies, departments, and institutions to advance  
5 poverty reduction and economic recovery in the State.

6 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.