

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

S

3

**SENATE BILL 1069  
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/6/09  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/7/09**

Short Title:   Joining Our Businesses and Schools Commission.

(Public)

---

Sponsors:

---

Referred to:

---

March 31, 2009

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE JOINING OUR BUSINESSES AND  
3 SCHOOLS (JOBS) STUDY COMMISSION.

4               Whereas, the Innovative Education Initiatives Act became law in 2003; and

5               Whereas, as a result of this act, 52 Early and Middle College programs have been  
6 developed as a collaboration between the public schools, the community colleges, and private  
7 business; and

8               Whereas, these schools have generally evidenced a decrease in their dropout rates  
9 and, as a result, have won national awards; and

10              Whereas, North Carolina has seven identified economic development regions, each  
11 with its own challenges in today's changing and demanding job market; and

12              Whereas, North Carolina has numerous innovative public and private programs  
13 based in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and

14              Whereas, to be efficient with the taxpayers' dollars, to continue to increase the  
15 graduation rate, and to prepare our students for twenty-first century jobs, it would be beneficial  
16 to map these innovative education programs, including the development of additional Early and  
17 Middle College programs and STEM programs, and other public and private education  
18 programs that have instructional programs that prepare students to meet the particular  
19 employment and workforce preparation needs of the respective economic development regions.  
20 In addition, it would be beneficial to develop curriculum frameworks that reflect innovative  
21 design principles in some of these schools that would address both regional and statewide  
22 employment needs; and

23              Whereas, the United States Department of Education has identified 16 career  
24 clusters as a tool to connect career technical education (CTE) to education, workforce  
25 preparation, and economic development; and

26              Whereas, the North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative/MCNC is supporting  
27 the creation of a replicable community visioning process, engaging business, policy, education,  
28 and community stakeholders in mapping their local needs and producing a plan for sustainable,  
29 local education innovation based in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

30              Whereas, it would be beneficial to position each region and the State to compete in  
31 the regional, national, and global economy by creating a joint legislative study commission to  
32 review the vision plans and overall needs of each economic development region as well as the  
33 overall needs of the State; and

34              Whereas, the Commission should advise the North Carolina Education Cabinet and  
35 specifically the Department of Public Instruction as they develop standard instructional  
36 programs for twenty-first century career paths in accordance with the Early and Middle College



1 and STEM models and study the implementation of pilot programs in these respective regions  
2 that will best suit the potential of the region and better prepare students for the increased  
3 academic demands of a global economy; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is established the Joint Legislative JOBS (Joining Our  
6 Businesses and Schools) Study Commission (Commission).

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Commission shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) The Lieutenant Governor serving as the Chair.

9 (2) Two members appointed by the Governor.

10 (3) Eight members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to  
11 include:

12 a. Three members of the Senate, with one designated to serve as a vice-  
13 chair.

14 b. A representative of The University of North Carolina.

15 c. A representative of the Department of Public Instruction.

16 d. A representative of North Carolina's business and industry.

17 e. A public school teacher.

18 f. An individual with expertise in STEM education.

19 (4) Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to  
20 include:

21 a. Three members of the House of Representatives, with one designated  
22 to serve as a vice-chair.

23 b. A representative of the Community College System.

24 c. A representative of the Independent Colleges and Universities.

25 d. A representative of the Department of Commerce.

26 e. A representative of North Carolina's business and industry.

27 f. A representative of North Carolina's school superintendents.

28 (5) The Executive Director of the Education Cabinet or the Executive Director's  
29 designee, serving ex officio.

30 **SECTION 2.(b)** Members of the Commission shall serve a three-year term,  
31 beginning on July 1, 2009. The terms for members of the House of Representatives or the  
32 Senate shall end upon the expiration of the members' legislative term.

33 **SECTION 2.(c)** Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.  
34 Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the same appointing authority who made the  
35 initial appointment.

36 **SECTION 2.(d)** A vice-chair shall serve as Chair in the absence of the Chair.

37 **SECTION 3.(a)** The Commission shall study issues related to economic  
38 development through innovative schools where instructional program frameworks reflect the  
39 high academic standards required of students to be successful as they transition to  
40 postsecondary education and future careers, including:

41 (1) Technical and vocational needs of each economic development region;

42 (2) Employment and workforce preparation needs of the State as a whole;

43 (3) The economic vision plans for each economic development region;

44 (4) The shortage of highly skilled employees such as technicians, teachers,  
45 allied health practitioners, including, but not limited to, nurses and doctors,  
46 scientists, and engineers;

47 (5) The 16 career clusters identified by the United States Department of  
48 Education as well as additional career paths;

49 (6) The development of a framework for assessment of readiness of a  
50 community or region to support twenty-first century economic demands of  
51 business and industry development and the scaling of innovative local

1 programs to impact broader numbers of individuals in communities around  
2 the State; and

- 3 (7) Any other matter pertinent to connecting career technical education to  
4 education, workforce preparation, and economic development through  
5 innovative schools.

6 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Chair shall appoint from the Commission's membership a  
7 North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative Advisory Committee (Community  
8 Collaborative) to ensure that the efforts of the Commission and the Community Collaborative  
9 are aligned and that the Commission is informed of the Community Collaborative's activities  
10 and that the Community Collaborative is informed of the Commission's activities.

11 **SECTION 4.** The Commission shall prioritize and customize the career clusters  
12 and identify additional career paths and report its recommendations to the State Board of  
13 Education. The Commission shall (i) advise the North Carolina Education Cabinet and  
14 specifically the Department of Public Instruction as they develop, incrementally, standard  
15 instructional programs for career clusters and their corresponding career paths in accordance  
16 with the Early and Middle College model, and (ii) study the implementation of pilot programs  
17 in the seven economic development regions of the State that will best suit the needs of the  
18 regions and prepare students for the increased academic demands of a global economy.

19 **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall also study issues related to economic growth  
20 by the creation of measures and metrics which define the readiness of a community to deliver  
21 to all stakeholders the services that equip the workforce to be competitive in a STEM-intensive  
22 economy, including ensuring that students throughout the education pipeline gain the skills  
23 learned from science, technology, engineering, math, and other rigorous subjects. As a part of  
24 its study, the Commission may examine issues related to:

- 25 (1) A replicable and perpetual model for aligning efforts of local business,  
26 industry, policy, and education stakeholders in community engagement for  
27 visioning student-centered learning;
- 28 (2) The documentation and study of the innovative education programs critical  
29 for communities to be competitive in the STEM environment in the  
30 twenty-first century;
- 31 (3) A framework to network these economic development regions, aligning  
32 State, regional, and external investment in replicable innovation;
- 33 (4) Opportunities to leverage existing research, programs such as the College  
34 Foundation of North Carolina Bridges program, and other resources to  
35 maximize the impact of these existing resources and assets to avoid  
36 duplication, to achieve greater economies of scale, and to broaden the impact  
37 of these efforts by the most cost-effective means possible; and
- 38 (5) Any other topics deemed relevant by the Commission.

39 **SECTION 6.(a)** The Commission shall, within the first eight months of its  
40 creation, meet at least once in each economic development region. The Commission may use  
41 any and all appropriate technology to enhance participation in its meetings and to reduce the  
42 costs incurred by the Commission. The Chair may appoint a volunteer advisory committee in  
43 each economic development region to assist the Commission in its work.

44 **SECTION 6.(b)** The Commission shall work closely with the business community  
45 across the State and shall encourage businesses and business leaders to partner with the  
46 Commission on the work of the Commission and to establish public-private partnerships with  
47 the pilot schools.

48 **SECTION 6.(c)** The University of North Carolina shall inform the Commission on  
49 the work of its constituent institutions on the elementary and middle school fundamental  
50 building blocks for secondary STEM success. This work should be a consideration for all  
51 communities which engage in visioning student-centered learning. The Commission shall also

1 be informed by The University of North Carolina on its North Carolina STEM program  
2 inventory and how to make this inventory available to communities which engage in visioning  
3 student-centered learning.

4 **SECTION 7.** The Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chair. A quorum of  
5 the Commission shall be a majority of its members. The Legislative Services Commission shall  
6 grant adequate meeting space to the Commission in the State Legislative Building or the  
7 Legislative Office Building. G.S. 120-19 applies to requests made on behalf of the  
8 Commission.

9 **SECTION 8.(a)** The expenses of the Commission shall be paid by the Legislative  
10 Services Commission from available funds appropriated to the General Assembly. The  
11 Legislative Services Commission may accept grants on behalf of the State to be used to help  
12 defray the expenses of the Commission. Any application and receipt of grants under this  
13 section shall be subject to the requirements of Chapters 120C and 138A of the General Statutes,  
14 and Article 14 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes. Reasonable expenses of the  
15 Commission may include the cost of travel on a learning tour of innovative schools both inside  
16 and out of the State. Any grants funds received under this section shall be held by the General  
17 Assembly in a non-reverting special fund known as the JOBS Commission Fund to be  
18 administered by the Legislative Services Commission for expenses of the Commission. Any  
19 funds remaining in the JOBS Commission Fund shall transfer to the reserves of the General  
20 Assembly upon termination of the Commission.

21 **SECTION 8.(b)** Members of the Commission shall receive per diem, subsistence,  
22 and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.  
23 Individual expenses of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or less, including per diem, travel, and  
24 subsistence expenses of members of the Commission, shall be paid upon authorization of the  
25 Chair of the Commission. Individual expenses in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall  
26 be paid upon written approval of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of  
27 the House of Representatives.

28 **SECTION 8.(c)** With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the  
29 Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist the Commission  
30 in its work during the interims between legislative sessions. The Directors of Legislative  
31 Assistants of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall assign clerical staff to the  
32 Commission. The Commission may contract for additional professional or consultant services  
33 in accordance with G.S. 120-32.02.

34 **SECTION 9.(a)** The Commission shall make an initial report of the results of its  
35 study to the State Board of Education by March 1, 2010. In its report, the Commission shall  
36 recommend at least four of the 16 career clusters identified by the United States Department of  
37 Education that will best and most broadly serve the immediate employment and workforce  
38 preparation needs of the State and the respective regions. Upon consideration of the  
39 recommendations of the Commission, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
40 Department of Public Instruction, shall develop the instructional programs for at least four  
41 career clusters and shall implement at least one JOBS Early or Middle College in each of the  
42 economic development regions beginning with the 2010-2011 school year where feasible, and  
43 in all other regions by the 2011-2012 school year.

44 **SECTION 9.(b)** The Commission may make recommendations resulting from its  
45 study to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction from time to  
46 time in its discretion.

47 **SECTION 9.(c)** The Commission shall monitor the implementation of its  
48 recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction and  
49 shall report and recommend to the General Assembly any legislation necessary to implement its  
50 recommendations.

1           **SECTION 9.(d)** The Commission shall make an interim report of the results of its  
2 study and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Legislative  
3 Education Oversight Committee and the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly  
4 no later than May 15, 2010, and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and  
5 the 2011 Regular Session of the 2011 General Assembly no later than February 1, 2011, and a  
6 final report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the 2012 Regular  
7 Session of the 2011 General Assembly no later than May 15, 2012. The Commission shall file  
8 a copy of each Commission report with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate's office, the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives' office, and the Legislative Library.

10           **SECTION 10.** The Commission shall terminate on June 30, 2012, or upon the  
11 filing of its final report in accordance with Section 9.(d) of this act.

12           **SECTION 11.** This act is effective when it becomes law.