

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 548

Short Title: Reestablish NC Progress Board. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA PROGRESS BOARD.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5 Article to read:

6 "Article 35.

7 "North Carolina Progress Board.

8 **"§ 116-290. North Carolina Progress Board.**

9 (a) The North Carolina Progress Board is established. The Board shall be located
10 administratively in the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and is located
11 at North Carolina State University but shall exercise all its prescribed statutory powers
12 independently of the Board of Governors.

13 (b) The North Carolina Progress Board shall consist of 14 members as follows:

14 (1) The Governor, ex officio;

15 (2) Seven persons appointed by the Governor, none of whom shall be State
16 employees or officers;

17 (3) Three persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
18 and

19 (4) Three persons appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

20 (c) The Governor shall be chair of the North Carolina Progress Board. The Governor
21 shall appoint a vice-chair from among the membership of the North Carolina Progress Board to
22 serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The North Carolina Progress Board may elect such other
23 officers as it sees fit.

24 (d) The North Carolina Progress Board shall meet at least twice annually on the call of
25 the chair or as additionally provided by the North Carolina Progress Board. A quorum is eight
26 members of the Board. Members may not send designees to Board meetings, nor may they vote
27 by proxy.

28 (e) Initial appointments shall be for terms to begin July 1, 2015. Of the Governor's
29 appointments, four shall be for two-year terms and three shall be for four-year terms. Of the
30 appointments made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
31 Tempore of the Senate, one shall be for a two-year term and two shall be for a four-year term.
32 As terms expire, successors shall be appointed for four-year terms.

33 (f) No member may be appointed to more than two consecutive terms. A member of
34 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives vacates
35 membership on the North Carolina Progress Board when that person is no longer a member of
36 the House of Representatives, except that if that person is in office at the expiration of the term



1 of office in the House of Representatives but has not been elected to the next term, that person
2 shall continue to serve until the convening of the regular session. A member of the Senate
3 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate vacates membership on the North
4 Carolina Progress Board when that person is no longer a member of the Senate, except that if
5 that person is in office at the expiration of the term of office in the Senate but has not been
6 elected to the next term, that person shall continue to serve until the convening of the regular
7 session.

8 **"§ 116-291. Responsibilities.**

9 (a) The General Assembly notes that the Commission for a Competitive North Carolina
10 developed goals in the following categories:

- 11 (1) Healthy Children and Families;
- 12 (2) Quality Education for All;
- 13 (3) A High Performance Workforce;
- 14 (4) A Prosperous Economy;
- 15 (5) A Sustainable Environment;
- 16 (6) Technology and Infrastructure Development;
- 17 (7) Safe and Vibrant Communities; and
- 18 (8) Active Citizenship/Accountable Government.

19 The Commission for a Competitive North Carolina adopted a report that established major
20 goals and ways to measure progress toward these goals.

21 (b) The General Assembly finds that the North Carolina Progress Board developed a
22 report that focused on four of the Commission's recommended topics and issued 16 major
23 targets for 2010. The objectives of the targets were to drive the State toward (i) a more
24 expansive vision of education and environmental protection, (ii) strengthening families, and
25 (iii) bringing more people into the economic mainstream.

26 (c) The General Assembly finds that:

- 27 (1) The North Carolina economy of the future can provide unparalleled
28 opportunity while maintaining North Carolina's traditional values, if the
29 State pursues the future with clarity of purpose and perseverance;
- 30 (2) The North Carolina economy is in the midst of a massive transition created
31 by technological changes, global competition, and new production practices;
32 and
- 33 (3) In order to maintain employment opportunities, increase income levels,
34 reduce poverty, and generate the public revenues necessary to provide public
35 services, North Carolina must increasingly rely on an economy that adds
36 value to its natural and human resources and provides a diverse mix of
37 products.

38 (d) The North Carolina Progress Board shall do the following:

- 39 (1) Encourage the discussion and understanding of critical global and national
40 social and economic trends that will affect North Carolina in the coming
41 decades;
- 42 (2) Examine the report of the Commission for a Competitive North Carolina and
43 the 1997 report of the North Carolina Progress Board to the General
44 Assembly;
- 45 (3) Track the eight issue areas set out in subsection (a) of this section and the
46 objectives set out in subsection (b) of this section and other issues identified
47 by the Progress Board. The Progress Board may, upon vote of the Board,
48 add to those issues identified by its predecessor Commission and Board;
- 49 (4) Hold public hearings and other methods of public participation, including
50 educational and outreach programs, to secure the views of citizens on

1 priority goals for North Carolina and to disseminate findings and
2 recommendations to policymakers;

3 (5) Formulate and submit to North Carolinians a report every five years,
4 beginning in 2016, that updates the 20- to 30-year vision for North Carolina
5 and that describes and explains a vision for North Carolina's progress over
6 the next 20 to 30 years;

7 (6) Submit a report to the General Assembly prior to its convening the regular
8 session every odd-numbered year, which reports on social and economic
9 trends and issues specific targets and milestones to accomplish its mission;

10 (7) Recommend how the targets and milestones can be applied to increase the
11 accountability of government to the people of this State;

12 (8) Report periodically to the people of North Carolina on progress toward
13 meeting goals, targets, and milestones;

14 (9) Undertake new and ongoing policy research and benchmarking studies; and

15 (10) Publish and distribute periodic reports on policies, performance
16 improvement, and best practices for meeting the long-term goals for the
17 State.

18 (e) The North Carolina Progress Board may apply for and accept gifts or grants.

19 (f) The 2015 General Assembly and 2017 General Assembly shall further define the
20 mission of the North Carolina Progress Board in continuing its work.

21 (g) The General Assembly, after adopting the initial set of goals and measures as
22 proposed or amended, may alter the goals and measures.

23 **"§ 116-292. Staff.**

24 (a) The Chancellor of North Carolina State University shall appoint an Executive
25 Director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor. The Executive Director shall report
26 to the North Carolina Progress Board and the Chancellor. The Executive Director shall hire or
27 contract with support staff, who shall work at the pleasure of the Executive Director.

28 (b) The Office of State Budget and Management and other executive branch agencies
29 shall also provide support, information, reports, and other assistance to the North Carolina
30 Progress Board as requested."

31 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.