

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 89

Short Title: Child Care Commission.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Walker, Forrester, Plexico, Richardson; and Cochrane.

Referred to: Rules and Operation of the Senate.

February 9, 1993

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON CHILD  
3 CARE ISSUES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
6 Article to read:

7 **"ARTICLE 12J.**  
8 **"LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE ISSUES.**

9  
10 **"§ 120-70.90. Commission established.**

11 The Legislative Commission on Child Care Issues is established as a permanent  
12 commission. As used in this Article, the term 'Commission' means the Legislative  
13 Commission on Child Care Issues.

14 **"§ 120-70.91. Powers and duties; study.**

15 The Commission shall study State government policy and programs affecting child  
16 care issues, specifically addressing child care issues from the point of existing laws,  
17 governmental programs needed or already functioning, and current child care issues.  
18 The Commission shall work in close collaboration with all agencies and programs  
19 dealing with child care. Among the issues the Commission may consider studying are:

- 20 (1) Prior recommendations of other study commissions that have reviewed  
21 child day care and other child care services since 1980 and an  
22 assessment of compliance with these recommendations;  
23 (2) The advantages and costs associated with measures to improve the  
24 quality of child care, including lowering staff/child ratios, enhancing

1 child care teaching credentialing, improving training of child care  
2 teachers, and improving salaries of all child care workers;

3 (3) Ways to maximize the positive impact on North Carolina of the federal  
4 block grant;

5 (4) Ongoing examination of the current statutory regulation of child care  
6 and the procedures used to develop policies and rules in order to  
7 ensure that all North Carolina's children in child care can receive  
8 quality care that is both enriching and safe;

9 (5) The relationship between child care services offered by for-profit and  
10 nonprofit, public and private, child care providers, including the public  
11 schools, to ensure that parents have full choice of safe, quality child  
12 care;

13 (6) Ways to continue towards the development of a unified State policy  
14 for funding and delivery of all child care services; and

15 (7) Any additional issues the Commission may consider necessary to  
16 study.

17 **"§ 120-70.92. Membership; cochair; vacancies.**

18 The Commission shall consist of 14 members. Members serving ex officio may  
19 designate other people to represent them:

20 (1) The Secretary of Human Resources;

21 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;

22 (3) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
23 Speaker of the House;

24 (4) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
25 of the Senate;

26 (5) Two members at large appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of  
27 whom shall be from an urban area in the west and one of whom shall  
28 be from a rural area in the east;

29 (6) Two members at large appointed by the President of the Senate, one of  
30 whom shall be from a rural area in the west and one of whom shall be  
31 from an urban area in the east; and

32 (7) Two members at large appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall  
33 be from a rural area in the Piedmont and one of whom shall be from an  
34 urban area in the Piedmont.

35 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointments. Ex officio  
36 members are voting members.

37 The Commission shall have its initial meeting no later than September 1, 1993, at  
38 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The  
39 Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a  
40 cochair from the membership of the Commission. The membership shall meet upon the  
41 call of the cochair.

42 **"§ 120-70.93. Compensation and expenses of members.**

1       The Commission members shall receive no salary for serving but shall receive  
2 necessary subsistence and travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S.  
3 120-3.1, 138-5, and 138-6 as applicable.

4 **"§ 120-70.94. Additional powers.**

5       The Commission may hold public meetings across the State to solicit public input  
6 with respect to the issues of child care.

7       The Commission shall have authority to obtain information and data from all State  
8 officers, agents, agencies, and departments while in the discharge of its duties, pursuant  
9 to the provisions of G.S. 120-19, as if it were a committee of the General Assembly.

10 The Commission shall have the authority to call witnesses, compel testimony relevant to  
11 any matter properly before the Commission, and subpoena relevant records and  
12 documents. The provisions of G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4 shall apply to the  
13 proceedings of the Commission as if it were a joint committee of the General Assembly.

14 In addition to the other signatures required for the issuance of a subpoena under this  
15 section, the subpoena shall also be signed by the cochair of the Commission. Any cost  
16 of providing information to the Commission not covered by G.S. 120-19.3 may be  
17 reimbursed by the Commission from funds available for the Commission's work.

18       The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General  
19 Assembly and the Governor no later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year. The  
20 Commission may report no later than June 1 of each even-numbered year to the General  
21 Assembly and the Governor.

22 **"§ 120-70.95. Staffing.**

23       At the request of the Commission, the Legislative Services Commission may supply  
24 members of the staff of the Legislative Services Office and clerical assistance to the  
25 Commission as it considers appropriate. The Commission may, with the approval of the  
26 Legislative Services Commission, meet in the State Legislative Building or the  
27 Legislative Office Building."

28       Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General  
29 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year  
30 and the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to  
31 fund the Legislative Study Commission on Child Care Issues.

32       Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.