

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

S

1

**SENATE BILL 1024**

Short Title: NC 2050 Sustainability Task Force. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Stein; Berger of Franklin, Davis, Dorsett, Garrou, Kinnaird, Nesbitt, Queen, and Stevens.

Referred to: Select Committee on Energy, Science and Technology.

March 26, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABILITY 2050 TASK  
3 FORCE TO DEVELOP A NORTH CAROLINA 2050 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN THAT  
4 PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH  
5 CAROLINA IN THE FUTURE THROUGH THE YEAR 2050.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Findings. – The General Assembly makes the following findings:

- 8 (1) North Carolina is a unique and beautiful State. For many, it is the ideal place  
9 to live and is second to none for providing a preferred quality of life.  
10 However, in order to improve or even maintain the quality of life in this  
11 State, the legislature finds that planning the overall goals of the State is  
12 important to our future success.
- 13 (2) There are also many real, serious, and immediate challenges that our State  
14 faces on an annual basis. While it is the State government's responsibility to  
15 resolve many such issues, it is also State government's responsibility to plan  
16 for the future and guide our State in the right direction for succeeding  
17 generations.
- 18 (3) The time has come to review how the State can sustain that which makes our  
19 State great and improve that which needs improvement. To be sustainable,  
20 North Carolina must have strong businesses, high quality jobs, and  
21 professional opportunities, a quality educational system, leadership in  
22 innovation, and a healthy environment.
- 23 (4) A sustainability plan for North Carolina should envision and guide State  
24 planning to the year 2050 in the areas of economic development, the  
25 environment, education, employment, health, housing, human services,  
26 agriculture, conservation lands, energy, historic and cultural preservation,  
27 natural resources, recreation, tourism, and transportation, in order to aid in  
28 the success for the future long-term, comprehensive development of the  
29 State.

30 **SECTION 2.(a)** North Carolina 2050 Task Force; Membership. – The North  
31 Carolina 2050 Task Force is established. The Task Force shall consist of 25 members as  
32 follows:

- 33 (1) Four members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
34 of the Senate.
- 35 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the  
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives.



- 1 (3) Four representatives of the Governor, to be appointed by the Governor.
- 2 (4) The State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designee.
- 3 (5) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources or the Secretary's
- 4 designee.
- 5 (6) The Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary's designee.
- 6 (7) The Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary's designee.
- 7 (8) The Chairman of the State Board of Education or the Chairman's designee.
- 8 (9) The President of the University of North Carolina or the President's
- 9 designee.
- 10 (10) The President of the Community College System or the President's designee.
- 11 (11) The Director of the Office of State Budget, Planning, and Management or
- 12 the Director's designee.
- 13 (12) The Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning, University of
- 14 North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or the Chair's designee.
- 15 (13) The School Director of the School of Architecture in the College of Design,
- 16 North Carolina State University, or the School Director's designee.
- 17 (14) The Dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences,
- 18 Duke University, or the Dean's designee.
- 19 (15) The Executive Director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities or
- 20 the Executive Director's designee.
- 21 (16) The Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County
- 22 Commissioners or the Executive Director's designee.

23 **SECTION 2.(b)** Cochairs. – The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall  
24 designate one member of the Task Force to serve as cochairman, and the Speaker of the House  
25 of Representatives shall designate one member of the Task Force to serve as cochairman.

26 **SECTION 2.(c)** Vacancies. – Any vacancy which occurs on the Task Force shall  
27 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

28 **SECTION 2.(d)** Quorum. – A quorum of the Task Force shall consist of 13  
29 members.

30 **SECTION 3.(a)** Duties. – The Task Force shall study how North Carolina can  
31 grow and develop sustainably in the future through the year 2050. The Task Force shall  
32 consider what it means for the State's growth and development to be sustainable, focusing on  
33 the areas of: economic development, including transportation and water and sewer  
34 infrastructure; the State's natural resources, including its land, water, air, local food supply, and  
35 energy supplies; and quality of life issues, including health and education. The Task Force shall  
36 consider State government's responsibility to plan for the future and to guide our State in the  
37 right direction for succeeding generations. The Task Force also may consider any of the  
38 following issues:

- 39 (1) What goals, objectives, policies, and priorities are needed for the State to  
40 develop in a manner that is sustainable.
- 41 (2) What criteria should be the basis for determining the State priorities and for  
42 allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human  
43 resources, land, energy, water, and any other resources.
- 44 (3) How to improve the coordination of federal, State, and county plans,  
45 policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities as they relate to  
46 population growth, sustainable economic development, and the sustainability  
47 of natural resources.
- 48 (4) What constitutes North Carolina's inherent economic assets and how best to  
49 utilize those assets to define North Carolina's future role in the global  
50 economy.

- 1 (5) How to forecast vocational needs within the State and direct the education  
2 and training of North Carolina's workforce to ensure that the State's residents  
3 learn marketable skills in secondary school, university, and adult training  
4 programs.
- 5 (6) How to ensure that traffic congestion, pollution, and other adverse effects  
6 caused by population and economic growth are mitigated.
- 7 (7) How to engage local governments and citizens in a public discussion to  
8 achieve a consensus on the State's preferred future by 2050 and how to  
9 coordinate the actions needed to sustain a growing and vibrant economy,  
10 while maintaining a high quality of life for all citizens and visitors.
- 11 (8) What the respective roles of business, State government, and local  
12 governments are relative to attaining sustainable economic growth through  
13 the year 2050.
- 14 (9) What intermediate plans and benchmarks for the year 2015 and the year  
15 2030 must the State have to assist the State in fulfilling its goal to grow and  
16 develop sustainably through the year 2050.
- 17 (10) Any other issues the Task Force deems pertinent to its charge.

18 **SECTION 3.(b)** Additional Duties. – The Task Force shall solicit input on and  
19 develop a North Carolina 2050 Sustainability Plan to serve as a guide for the future long-term,  
20 integrated development of the State. The North Carolina 2050 Sustainability Plan shall define  
21 State goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for the State and local governments.  
22 The North Carolina 2050 Sustainability Plan shall include intermediate plans and benchmarks  
23 for the year 2015 and the year 2030 that the State should have in place to assist the State in  
24 fulfilling its goal to grow and develop sustainably through the year 2050.

25 **SECTION 4.** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Task Force shall receive  
26 per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6,  
27 as appropriate.

28 **SECTION 5.** Staff. – Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Services  
29 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to the Task Force  
30 to aid in its work.

31 **SECTION 6.** Consultants. – The Task Force may hire consultants to assist with the  
32 study as provided in G.S. 120-32.02(b).

33 **SECTION 7.** Meetings. – The Task Force may meet in the Legislative Building or  
34 the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services Commission.

35 **SECTION 8.** Report. – The Task Force shall report its findings and  
36 recommendations, including a North Carolina 2050 Sustainability Plan as required under  
37 subsection (b) of Section 3 of this act, and any legislative proposals to the General Assembly,  
38 the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Chairs of the Senate  
39 and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources on or before  
40 the convening of the 2011 General Assembly, at which time the Task Force shall terminate.

41 **SECTION 9.** Funding. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
42 General Assembly the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year  
43 and the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year for the purpose of  
44 conducting the study provided for in this act.

45 **SECTION 10.** Effective date. – This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.