

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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**HOUSE BILL 1395\***  
**Senate Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 7/7/92**

Short Title: Safety Reorganization Task Force.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 28, 1992

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
3 REORGANIZATION OF STATE AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH  
4 OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY  
5 RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8           Section 1. There is established the Inter-agency Task Force on State Agency  
9 Oversight of Workplace Safety and Health. The Task Force shall study the regulatory  
10 responsibilities of State and local governmental agencies involved with workplace  
11 safety and health and fire safety. The members shall include a representative of each of  
12 the following:

- 13           (1) The Commissioner of Labor, who shall also chair the Task Force.
- 14           (2) The Commissioner of Insurance or a designee.
- 15           (3) The Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural  
16 Resources or a designee.
- 17           (4) The Chairman of the Industrial Commission or a designee.
- 18           (5) The Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission or a designee.
- 19           (6) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation or a designee.
- 20           (7) The Chairman of the State Personnel Commission or a designee.
- 21           (8) A community college representative appointed by the President of the  
22 North Carolina System of Community Colleges.

1 (9) Two local officials, one selected by the North Carolina League of  
2 Municipalities and the other selected by the North Carolina  
3 Association of County Commissioners.

4 (10) One employee selected by the AFL-CIO and one business owner  
5 selected by the Citizens for Business and Industry.

6 The Task Force shall submit an interim written report to the LRC Study  
7 Committee on Fire and Occupational Safety at Industrial and Commercial Facilities no  
8 later than October 1, 1992, and a final report to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
9 Governmental Operations by June 1, 1993. The report shall recommend a proposed  
10 reorganization of the occupational health and safety and fire safety network within State  
11 and local government to better address the needs of employers and employees in this  
12 State. Except for cause, the same designee shall serve from the inception of the Task  
13 Force until the issuance of the final report.

14 The proposed reorganization should accomplish the following goals:

15 (1) Be as consolidated and coordinated as possible with clear areas of  
16 responsibility and clear lines of authority;

17 (2) Be devoid of duplication;

18 (3) Be devoid of political or special interest influence;

19 (4) Be able to respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively to reports of  
20 unsafe conditions and to emergencies;

21 (5) Clarify the role of local government in fire and safety protection in the  
22 workplaces in their jurisdictions;

23 (6) Fully utilize the community colleges in training inspectors and offering  
24 programs for safety committees and businesses that seek to improve  
25 worker safety;

26 (7) Consider contracting with local fire agencies for inspections before  
27 adding more people to the State payroll;

28 (8) Develop an educational component that will include the creation and  
29 distribution of educational materials regarding workplace safety laws  
30 and duties of employers and rights of workers, including brochures,  
31 fliers, posters, public service spots for radio and television, newspaper  
32 and magazine articles; and

33 (9) Include proposals for establishing supplementary inspection programs  
34 in addition to those authorized under the Occupational Safety and  
35 Health Act.

36 The Department of Labor shall provide clerical and professional assistance to  
37 the Task Force.

38 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.