

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 291**

Short Title: Sudan (Darfur) Divestment Act. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Luebke, Coates, Harrison, Jones (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Allen, Allred, Barnhart, Blue, Blust, Coleman, Cunningham, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Glazier, Goodwin, Hall, T. Harrell, Holliman, Insko, Jeffus, Lucas, Martin, McAllister, Michaux, Mobley, Rapp, Samuelson, Tarleton, Underhill, Wainwright, Weiss, and Womble.

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Referred to: Finance.

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February 21, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOW THE STATE TREASURER SHALL ADDRESS  
3 CERTAIN STATE INVESTMENTS RELATING TO SUDAN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Legislative findings.

- 6 (1) On July 23, 2004, the United States Congress declared that "the  
7 atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide."  
8 (2) On September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told the  
9 U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "genocide has occurred  
10 and may still be occurring in Darfur" and "the Government of Sudan  
11 and the Janjaweed bear responsibility."  
12 (3) On September 21, 2004, addressing the United Nations General  
13 Assembly, President George W. Bush affirmed the Secretary of State's  
14 finding and stated, "At this hour, the world is witnessing terrible  
15 suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my  
16 government has concluded are genocide."  
17 (4) On December 7, 2004, the U.S. Congress noted that the genocidal  
18 policy in Darfur has led to reports of "systematic rape of thousands of  
19 women and girls, the abduction of women and children, and the  
20 destruction of hundreds of ethnically African villages, including the  
21 poisoning of their wells and the plunder of their crops and cattle upon  
22 which the people of such villages sustain themselves."  
23 (5) Also on December 7, 2004, Congress found that "the Government of  
24 Sudan has restricted access by humanitarian and human rights workers

1 to the Darfur area through intimidation by military and security forces,  
2 and through bureaucratic and administrative obstruction, in an attempt  
3 to inflict the most devastating harm on those individuals displaced  
4 from their villages and homes without any means of sustenance or  
5 shelter."

- 6 (6) On September 25, 2006, Congress reaffirmed that "the genocide  
7 unfolding in the Darfur region of Sudan is characterized by acts of  
8 terrorism and atrocities directed against civilians, including mass  
9 murder, rape, and sexual violence committed by the Janjaweed and  
10 associated militias with the complicity and support of the National  
11 Congress Party-led faction of the Government of Sudan."  
12 (7) On September 26, 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives stated that  
13 "an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 people have been killed by the  
14 Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed allies since the [Darfur] crisis  
15 began in 2003, more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced from  
16 their homes, and more than 250,000 people from Darfur remain in  
17 refugee camps in Chad."  
18 (8) The Darfur crisis represents the first time the United States  
19 Government has labeled ongoing atrocities genocide.  
20 (9) The Federal Government has imposed sanctions against the  
21 Government of Sudan since 1997. These sanctions are monitored  
22 through the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets  
23 Control (OFAC).  
24 (10) According to a former chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange  
25 Commission, "the fact that a foreign company is doing material  
26 business with a country, government, or entity on OFAC's sanctions  
27 list is, in the SEC staff's view, substantially likely to be significant to a  
28 reasonable investor's decision about whether to invest in that  
29 company."  
30 (11) Since 1993, the U.S. Secretary of State has determined that Sudan is a  
31 country the government of which has repeatedly provided support for  
32 acts of international terrorism, thereby restricting United States  
33 assistance, defense exports and sales, and financial and other  
34 transactions with the Government of Sudan.  
35 (12) A 2006 U.S. House of Representatives report states that "a company's  
36 association with sponsors of terrorism and human rights abuses, no  
37 matter how large or small, can have a materially adverse result on a  
38 public company's operations, financial condition, earnings, and stock  
39 prices, all of which can negatively affect the value of an investment."  
40 (13) In response to the financial risk posed by investments in companies  
41 doing business with a terrorist-sponsoring state, the Securities and  
42 Exchange Commission established its Office of Global Security Risk  
43 to provide for enhanced disclosure of material information regarding  
44 such companies.

- 1 (14) The current Sudan divestment movement encompasses nearly 100  
2 universities, cities, states, and private pension plans.
- 3 (15) Companies facing such widespread divestment present further material  
4 risk to remaining investors.
- 5 (16) It is a fundamental responsibility of the State of North Carolina to  
6 decide where, how, and by whom financial resources in its control  
7 should be invested, taking into account numerous pertinent factors.
- 8 (17) It is the prerogative and desire of the State of North Carolina in respect  
9 to investment resources in its control and to the extent reasonable, with  
10 due consideration for, among other things, return on investment, on  
11 behalf of itself and its investment beneficiaries, not to participate in an  
12 ownership or capital-providing capacity with entities that provide  
13 significant practical support for genocide, including certain non-United  
14 States companies presently doing business in Sudan.
- 15 (18) It is the judgment of the General Assembly that this act should remain  
16 in effect only insofar as it continues to be consistent with, and does not  
17 unduly interfere with, the foreign policy of the United States as  
18 determined by the Federal Government.
- 19 (19) It is the judgment of this General Assembly that mandatory divestment  
20 of public funds from certain companies is a measure that should be  
21 employed sparingly and judiciously. A Congressional and Presidential  
22 declaration of genocide satisfies this high threshold.

23 **SECTION 2.** Definitions.

24 As used in this act, the following definitions apply:

- 25 (1) "Active Business Operations" means all Business Operations that are  
26 not Inactive Business Operations.
- 27 (2) "Business Operations" means engaging in commerce in any form in  
28 Sudan, including by acquiring, developing, maintaining, owning,  
29 selling, possessing, leasing, or operating equipment, facilities,  
30 personnel, products, services, personal property, real property, or any  
31 other apparatus of business or commerce.
- 32 (3) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association,  
33 corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited  
34 liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity or  
35 business association, including all wholly-owned subsidiaries,  
36 majority-owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of such  
37 entities or business associations, that exists for profit-making purposes.
- 38 (4) "Complicit" means taking actions during any preceding 20-month  
39 period which have directly supported or promoted the genocidal  
40 campaign in Darfur, including, but not limited to, preventing Darfur's  
41 victimized population from communicating with each other,  
42 encouraging Sudanese citizens to speak out against an internationally  
43 approved security force for Darfur, actively working to deny, cover up,

- 1 or alter the record on human rights abuses in Darfur, or other similar  
2 actions.
- 3 (5) "Direct Holdings" in a Company means all securities of that Company  
4 held directly by the Public Fund or in an account or fund in which the  
5 Public Fund owns all shares or interests.
- 6 (6) "Government of Sudan" means the government in Khartoum, Sudan,  
7 which is led by the National Congress Party (formerly known as the  
8 National Islamic Front) or any successor government formed on or  
9 after October 13, 2006 (including the coalition National Unity  
10 Government agreed upon in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for  
11 Sudan), and does not include the regional government of southern  
12 Sudan.
- 13 (7) "Inactive Business Operations" means the mere continued holding or  
14 renewal of rights to property previously operated for the purpose of  
15 generating revenues but not presently deployed for such purpose.
- 16 (8) "Indirect Holdings" in a Company means all securities of that  
17 Company held in an account or fund, such as a mutual fund, managed  
18 by one or more persons not employed by the Public Fund, in which the  
19 Public Fund owns shares or interests together with other investors not  
20 subject to the provisions of this act.
- 21 (9) "Marginalized Populations of Sudan" include, but are not limited to,  
22 the portion of the population in the Darfur region that has been  
23 genocidally victimized; the portion of the population of southern  
24 Sudan victimized by Sudan's North-South civil war; the Beja,  
25 Rashidiya, and other similarly underserved groups of eastern Sudan;  
26 the Nubian and other similarly underserved groups in Sudan's Abyei,  
27 Southern Blue Nile, and Nuba Mountain regions; and the Amri,  
28 Hamadab, Manasir, and other similarly underserved groups of northern  
29 Sudan.
- 30 (10) "Military Equipment" means weapons, arms, military supplies, and  
31 equipment that readily may be used for military purposes, including,  
32 but not limited to, radar systems or military-grade transport vehicles;  
33 or supplies or services sold or provided directly or indirectly to any  
34 force actively participating in armed conflict in Sudan.
- 35 (11) "Mineral Extraction Activities" include exploring, extracting,  
36 processing, transporting, or wholesale selling or trading of elemental  
37 minerals or associated metal alloys or oxides (ore), including gold,  
38 copper, chromium, chromite, diamonds, iron, iron ore, silver, tungsten,  
39 uranium, and zinc, as well as facilitating such activities, including by  
40 providing supplies or services in support of such activities.
- 41 (12) "Oil-Related Activities" include, but are not limited to, owning rights  
42 to oil blocks; exporting, extracting, producing, refining, processing,  
43 exploring for, transporting, selling, or trading of oil; constructing,  
44 maintaining, or operating a pipeline, refinery, or other oil-field

1 infrastructure; and facilitating such activities, including by providing  
2 supplies or services in support of such activities, provided that the  
3 mere retail sale of gasoline and related consumer products shall not be  
4 considered Oil-Related Activities.

5 (13) "Power Production Activities" means any Business Operation that  
6 involves a project commissioned by the National Electricity  
7 Corporation (NEC) of Sudan or other similar Government of Sudan  
8 entity whose purpose is to facilitate power generation and delivery,  
9 including, but not limited to, establishing power-generating plants or  
10 hydroelectric dams, selling or installing components for the project,  
11 providing service contracts related to the installation or maintenance of  
12 the project, as well as facilitating such activities, including by  
13 providing supplies or services in support of such activities.

14 (14) "Public Fund" means any funds held by the State Treasurer to the  
15 credit of:

- 16 a. The Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System.
- 17 b. The Consolidated Judicial Retirement System.
- 18 c. The Firemen's and Rescue Workers' Pension Fund.
- 19 d. The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.
- 20 e. The Legislative Retirement System.
- 21 f. The Legislative Retirement Fund.
- 22 g. The North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund.

23 (15) "Scrutinized Company" means any Company that meets the criteria in  
24 sub-subdivisions a., b., or c. below:

- 25 a. The Company has Business Operations that involve contracts  
26 with and/or provision of supplies or services to:
  - 27 1. The Government of Sudan,
  - 28 2. Companies in which the Government of Sudan has any  
29 direct or indirect equity share,
  - 30 3. Government of Sudan-commissioned consortiums or  
31 projects, or
  - 32 4. Companies involved in Government of  
33 Sudan-commissioned consortiums or projects;  
34 and either (i) More than ten percent (10%) of the  
35 Company's revenues or assets linked to Sudan involve  
36 Oil-Related Activities or Mineral Extraction Activities;  
37 less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the Company's  
38 revenues or assets linked to Sudan involve contracts with  
39 and/or provision of Oil-Related or Mineral Extracting  
40 products or services to the regional government of  
41 southern Sudan or a project or consortium created  
42 exclusively by that regional government; and the  
43 Company has failed to take Substantial Action; or (ii)  
44 More than ten percent (10%) of the Company's revenues

1 or assets linked to Sudan involve Power Production  
 2 Activities; less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the  
 3 Company's Power Production Activities include projects  
 4 whose intent is to provide power or electricity to the  
 5 Marginalized Populations of Sudan; and the Company  
 6 has failed to take Substantial Action.

- 7 b. The Company is Complicit in the Darfur genocide.
- 8 c. The Company supplies Military Equipment within Sudan,  
 9 unless it clearly shows that the Military Equipment cannot be  
 10 used to facilitate offensive military actions in Sudan or the  
 11 Company implements rigorous and verifiable safeguards to  
 12 prevent use of that equipment by forces actively participating in  
 13 armed conflict, for example, through post-sale tracking of such  
 14 equipment by the Company, certification from a reputable and  
 15 objective third party that such equipment is not being used by a  
 16 party participating in armed conflict in Sudan, or sale of such  
 17 equipment solely to the regional government of southern Sudan  
 18 or any internationally recognized peacekeeping force or  
 19 humanitarian organization.

20 Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, a Social  
 21 Development Company which is not Complicit in the Darfur genocide  
 22 shall not be considered a Scrutinized Company.

23 (16) "Social Development Company" means a Company whose primary  
 24 purpose in Sudan is to provide humanitarian goods or services,  
 25 including medicine or medical equipment, agricultural supplies or  
 26 infrastructure, educational opportunities, journalism-related activities,  
 27 information or information materials, spiritual-related activities,  
 28 services of a purely clerical or reporting nature, food, clothing, or  
 29 general consumer goods that are unrelated to Oil-Related Activities,  
 30 Mineral Extraction Activities, or Power Production Activities.

31 (17) "Substantial Action" means adopting, publicizing, and implementing a  
 32 formal plan to cease Scrutinized Business Operations within one year  
 33 and to refrain from any such new Business Operations; undertaking  
 34 significant humanitarian efforts on behalf of one or more Marginalized  
 35 Populations of Sudan; or through engagement with the Government of  
 36 Sudan, materially improving conditions for the genocidally victimized  
 37 population in Darfur.

38 **SECTION 3.** Identification of companies.

39 (a) Within 90 days of this act becoming effective, the Public Fund shall  
 40 make its best efforts to identify all Scrutinized Companies in which the Public Fund has  
 41 Direct or Indirect Holdings or could possibly have such holdings in the future. Such  
 42 efforts shall include, as appropriate:

- 43 (1) Reviewing and relying, as appropriate in the Public Fund's judgment,  
 44 on publicly available information regarding Companies with Business

- 1 Operations in Sudan, including information provided by nonprofit  
2 organizations, research firms, international organizations, and  
3 government entities;
- 4 (2) Contacting asset managers contracted by the Public Fund that invest in  
5 Companies with Business Operations in Sudan; or
- 6 (3) Contacting other institutional investors that have divested from and/or  
7 engaged with Companies that have Business Operations in Sudan.
- 8 (b) By the first meeting of the Public Fund following the 90-day period  
9 described in subsection (a), the Public Fund shall assemble all Scrutinized Companies  
10 identified into a "Scrutinized Companies List."
- 11 (c) The Public Fund shall update the Scrutinized Companies List on a  
12 quarterly basis based on evolving information from, among other sources, those listed in  
13 subsection (a) of this section.
- 14 **SECTION 4.** Required actions.
- 15 (a) General. The Public Fund shall adhere to the procedure for Companies  
16 on the Scrutinized Companies List as provided in this section:
- 17 (b) Engagement.
- 18 (1) The Public Fund shall immediately determine the Companies on the  
19 Scrutinized Companies List in which the Public Fund owns Direct or  
20 Indirect Holdings.
- 21 (2) For each Company identified in subdivision (1) of this section with  
22 only Inactive Business Operations, the Public Fund shall send a  
23 written notice informing the Company of this act and encouraging it to  
24 continue to refrain from initiating Active Business Operations in  
25 Sudan until it is able to avoid Scrutinized Business Operations. The  
26 Public Fund shall continue such correspondence on a semiannual  
27 basis.
- 28 (3) For each Company newly identified in subdivision (1) of this section  
29 with Active Business Operations, the Public Fund shall send a written  
30 notice informing the Company of its Scrutinized Company status and  
31 that it may become subject to divestment by the Public Fund. The  
32 notice shall offer the Company the opportunity to clarify its  
33 Sudan-related activities and shall encourage the Company, within 90  
34 days, to either cease its Scrutinized Business Operations or convert  
35 such operations to Inactive Business Operations in order to avoid  
36 qualifying for divestment by the Public Fund.
- 37 (4) If, within 90 days following the Public Fund's first engagement with a  
38 Company pursuant to subdivision (3) of this section that Company  
39 ceases Scrutinized Business Operations, the Company shall be  
40 removed from the Scrutinized Companies List and the provisions of  
41 this Section shall cease to apply to it unless it resumes Scrutinized  
42 Business Operations. If, within 90 days following the Public Fund's  
43 first engagement, the Company converts its Scrutinized Active

1 Business Operations to Inactive Business Operations, the Company  
2 shall be subject to all provisions relating thereto.

3 (c) Divestment.

4 (1) If, after 90 days following the Public Fund's first engagement with a  
5 Company pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section, the Company  
6 continues to have Scrutinized Active Business Operations, and only  
7 while such Company continues to have Scrutinized Active Business  
8 Operations, the Public Fund shall sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw all  
9 publicly traded securities of the Company, except as provided below,  
10 according to the following schedule:

11 a. At least 50% of such assets shall be removed from the Public  
12 Fund's assets under management by nine months after the  
13 Company's most recent appearance on the Scrutinized  
14 Companies List.

15 b. 100% of such assets shall be removed from the Public Fund's  
16 assets under management within 15 months after the Company's  
17 most recent appearance on the Scrutinized Companies List.

18 (2) If a Company that ceased Scrutinized Active Business Operations  
19 following engagement pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section  
20 resumes such operations, subdivision (1) of this subsection shall  
21 immediately apply, and the Public Fund shall send a written notice to  
22 the Company. The Company shall also be immediately reintroduced  
23 onto the Scrutinized Companies List.

24 (d) Prohibition. At no time shall the Public Fund acquire securities of  
25 Companies on the Scrutinized Companies List that have Active Business Operations,  
26 except as provided below.

27 (e) Exemption. No Company which the United States Government  
28 affirmatively declares to be excluded from its present or any future federal sanctions  
29 regime relating to Sudan shall be subject to divestment or investment prohibition  
30 pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

31 (f) Excluded Securities. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary,  
32 subsections (c) and (d) of this section shall not apply to Indirect Holdings in actively  
33 managed investment funds. The Public Fund shall, however, submit letters to the  
34 managers of such investment funds containing Companies with Scrutinized Active  
35 Business Operations requesting that they consider removing such Companies from the  
36 fund or create a similar actively managed fund with Indirect Holdings devoid of such  
37 Companies. If the manager creates a similar fund, the Public Fund shall replace all  
38 applicable investments with investments in the similar fund in an expedited time frame  
39 consistent with prudent investing standards. For the purposes of this section, "private  
40 equity" funds shall be deemed to be actively managed investment funds.

41 **SECTION 5. Reporting.**

42 (a) The Public Fund shall file a publicly available report to the General  
43 Assembly that includes the Scrutinized Companies List within 30 days after the list is  
44 created.



1 (b) Annually thereafter, the Public Fund shall file a publicly available  
2 report to the General Assembly and send a copy of that report to the United States  
3 Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan (or an appropriate designee or successor) that  
4 includes:

5 (1) A summary of correspondence with Companies engaged by the Public  
6 Fund under Sections 4(b)(2) and (b)(3) of this act.

7 (2) All investments sold, redeemed, divested, or withdrawn in compliance  
8 with Section 4(c) of this act.

9 (3) All prohibited investments under Section 4(d) of this act; and

10 (4) Any progress made under Section 4(f) of this act.

11 **SECTION 6.** Expiration of this act. This act expires upon the occurrence of  
12 any of the following:

13 (1) The Congress or President of the United States declaring that the  
14 Darfur genocide has been halted for at least 12 months.

15 (2) The United States revoking all sanctions imposed against the  
16 Government of Sudan.

17 (3) The Congress or President of the United States declaring that the  
18 Government of Sudan has honored its commitments to cease attacks  
19 on civilians, demobilize and demilitarize the Janjaweed and associated  
20 militias, grant free and unfettered access for deliveries of humanitarian  
21 assistance, and allow for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and  
22 internally displaced persons.

23 (4) The Congress or President of the United States, through legislation or  
24 executive order, declaring that mandatory divestment of the type  
25 provided for in this act interferes with the conduct of United States  
26 foreign policy.

27 **SECTION 7.** Other legal obligations. With respect to actions taken in  
28 compliance with this act, including all good faith determinations regarding Companies  
29 as required by this act, the Public Fund shall be exempt from any conflicting statutory or  
30 common law obligations, including any such obligations in respect to choice of asset  
31 managers, investment funds, or investments for the Public Fund's securities portfolios.

32 **SECTION 8.** Reinvestment in certain companies with Scrutinized Active  
33 Business Operations. Notwithstanding anything in this act, the Public Fund is permitted  
34 to cease divesting from certain Scrutinized Companies pursuant to Section 4(c) of this  
35 act and/or reinvest in certain Scrutinized Companies from which it divested pursuant to  
36 Section 4(c) of this act if clear and convincing evidence shows that the value for all  
37 assets under management by the Public Fund becomes equal to or less than 99.50% (50  
38 basis points) of the hypothetical value of all assets under management by the Public  
39 Fund assuming no divestment for any company had occurred under Section 4(c) of this  
40 act. Cessation of divestment, reinvestment, and/or any subsequent ongoing investment  
41 authorized by this section shall be strictly limited to the minimum steps necessary to  
42 avoid the contingency set forth in the preceding sentence. For any cessation of  
43 divestment, reinvestment, and/or subsequent ongoing investment authorized by this  
44 section, the Public Fund shall provide a written report to the General Assembly in

1 advance of initial reinvestment, updated semiannually thereafter as applicable, setting  
2 forth the reasons and justification, supported by clear and convincing evidence, for its  
3 decisions to cease divestment, reinvest, and/or remain invested in Companies with  
4 Scrutinized Active Business Operations. This section has no application to reinvestment  
5 in Companies on the ground that they have ceased to have Scrutinized Active Business  
6 Operations.

7           **SECTION 9.** Enforcement. The Attorney General is charged with enforcing  
8 the provisions of this act and, through any lawful designee, may bring such actions in  
9 court as are necessary to do so.

10           **SECTION 10.** Severability. If any one or more provision, section,  
11 subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this legislation or the application thereof  
12 to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable, or  
13 unconstitutional, the same is hereby declared to be severable and the balance of this  
14 legislation shall remain effective and functional notwithstanding such invalidity,  
15 illegality, unenforceability, or unconstitutionality. The General Assembly declares that  
16 it would have passed this legislation, and each provision, section, subsection, sentence,  
17 clause, phrase or word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more provision,  
18 section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word be declared invalid, illegal,  
19 unenforceable, or unconstitutional, including, but not limited to, each of the  
20 engagement, divestment, and prohibition provisions of this legislation.

21           **SECTION 11.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.