

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 329

Sponsors: Representatives Ray, Howard, Steen (Primary Sponsors); Faison and Tillis.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 22, 2007

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT
2 OF A HYDROGEN ECONOMY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

3 Whereas, in less than 18 years, hydrogen technologies and related goods and
4 services are forecast to exceed \$1.7 trillion in worldwide sales; and

5 Whereas, North Carolina taxpayers contribute about \$5,000,000 a year in
6 federal tax dollars that are used by the United States Department of Energy for
7 hydrogen research and job creation that occur in states other than North Carolina; and

8 Whereas, hydrogen makes grid electricity storable, transportable, and usable
9 for highway vehicles, for rail transport, and for the operation of heavy equipment; and

10 Whereas, hydrogen powers both clean internal combustion engines and
11 highly efficient fuel cells; and

12 Whereas, it is expected that hydrogen will fuel the next generation of trains,
13 trucks, and cars; and

14 Whereas, hydrogen can foster energy independence by enabling the storage
15 and transportation of electricity from hydroelectric, wind, tide, biomass, solar power,
16 and other renewable energy sources in North Carolina as well as from nuclear and
17 coal-fired sources; and

18 Whereas, underground piped hydrogen could eventually replace a power
19 transmission plant as a more economical and safe alternative that does not involve
20 unsightly overhead transmission lines, which frequently need repair or replacement after
21 ice, hurricane, tornado, and other violent seasonal storms; and

22 Whereas, the large body of laws and rules specifically crafted for North
23 Carolina's heritage energy technologies may impede the emergence of a hydrogen
24 economy in North Carolina; and

25 Whereas, the current lack of knowledge about hydrogen's use as an energy
26 medium among North Carolina's human resources – its labor, management, and
27 researchers – may impede North Carolina's participation in the hydrogen economy; and

28 Whereas, other nations, industry, and the federal government have each
29 demonstrated a sufficient commitment to using hydrogen to render a decision by the

1 State to join the hydrogen economy, a choice it can make with confidence; Now,
2 therefore,

3 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

4 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly finds that it is in the State's best
5 interest to:

- 6 (1) Move toward a position of leadership in hydrogen research,
7 manufacturing, and commerce.
- 8 (2) Assure that hydrogen figures prominently in university, community
9 college, and public school science curricula.
- 10 (3) Obtain federal funding for hydrogen-related research that complements
11 and does not replicate work already underway in this region.
- 12 (4) Require State agencies to begin identifying practices, laws, and rules
13 that may impede adoption of hydrogen technologies and to consider
14 substituting hydrogen for petroleum applications and vehicles as soon
15 as safety and economics permit.
- 16 (5) Include hydrogen standards in the State Building Code.
- 17 (6) Establish a priority for the use in State facilities of hydrogen standby
18 generating and uninterruptible power rather than the use of lead-acid
19 battery and diesel generator technology for these purposes.
- 20 (7) Look for opportunities for the State to deploy hydrogen technology
21 whereby the public can observe hydrogen technology in action,
22 thereby becoming familiar with its advantages for the environment, for
23 energy independence, and as a tool for economic development in the
24 State.

25 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.