

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

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 1038**

Short Title: Econ. Dev. Thru Innovative Schools/Comm. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Glazier, Parmon, McLawhorn, Yongue (Primary Sponsors);  
Cotham, Faison, Fisher, Gillespie, Harrison, Lucas, Rapp, Spear, Tarleton, and  
Womble.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 6, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOBS COMMISSION.

3 Whereas, the Innovative Education Act became law in 2003; and

4 Whereas, as a result of said act, 52 Early/Middle College programs have been  
5 developed as a collaboration between the public schools, the community colleges, and private  
6 business; and

7 Whereas, these schools have generally evidenced a decrease in the dropout rate and,  
8 as a result, have won national awards; and

9 Whereas, North Carolina has seven identified economic development regions, each  
10 with its own challenges during changing economic times; and

11 Whereas, to be efficient with the taxpayers' dollars and to continue to reduce the  
12 dropout rate and to prepare our students for twenty-first century jobs, it would be beneficial to  
13 develop future Early/Middle College programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,  
14 and Mathematics) school programs that have curriculums that prepare students to meet the  
15 particular need of the respective economic development regions. In addition, it would be  
16 beneficial to develop curriculums in some of these schools that address career areas that are  
17 present in each region and that would address statewide needs; and

18 Whereas, 16 career clusters ranging from Vocational-Technical Programs such as  
19 Manufacturing to Health Science, to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math have been  
20 identified by the United States Department of Education; and

21 Whereas, it would be beneficial to create a commission to review the vision plans of  
22 each region and the overall needs of each region and the overall need of the State to better  
23 position each region, and to position the State, to compete in the regional, national, and global  
24 economy; and

25 Whereas, the Commission should be charged to develop incrementally, standard  
26 curriculums for these career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College and STEM  
27 models and should be charged with monitoring the implementation of pilot programs in these  
28 respective regions that will best suit the potential of the region and better prepare students for  
29 the increased academic demands of a global economy; Now, therefore,

30 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

31 **SECTION 1.** There is established in the General Assembly a JOBS (Joining Our  
32 Businesses and Schools) Commission.

33 **SECTION 2.** The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- 34 (1) The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chair;  
35 (2) The chair of the State Board of Education or a designee;



\* H 1 0 3 8 - V - 1 \*

- 1 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce or a designee;
- 2 (4) The President of the North Carolina Community College System;
- 3 (5) Three members appointed by the Governor;
- 4 (6) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
- 5 (7) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6 **SECTION 3.** The purpose of the Commission is to (i) develop incrementally, in  
7 conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, standard curriculums for career clusters  
8 and their corresponding career paths in accordance with the Early/Middle College model and  
9 (ii) monitor the implementation of pilot programs in the seven economic development regions  
10 of the State that will best suit the needs of the regions and prepare students for the increased  
11 academic demands of a global economy.

12 The Commission shall meet at least once in each economic development region  
13 within the first eight months of its creation. In the course of the study, the Commission shall  
14 consider the needs of the State as a whole and shall review the economic vision plans for each  
15 region and other information it deems necessary and consider the growing need for technicians,  
16 teachers, practitioners of allied health, including, but not limited to, nurses and doctors, and the  
17 need for scientists and engineers and other critical areas. It shall also consider the technical and  
18 vocational needs of each region.

19 The Commission shall report its recommendations to the State Board of Education.  
20 In its report, it shall recommend at least four of the 16 career clusters identified by the United  
21 States Department of Education that will best and most broadly serve the immediate needs of  
22 the State and the respective regions. Thereafter, the State Board of Education, in consultation  
23 with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop the curriculum for the career clusters  
24 so recommended. The State Board of Education shall thereafter, for the 2010-2011 school year,  
25 implement at least one JOBS Early/Middle College in each of the economic development  
26 regions as recommended by the commission.

27 The Commission shall also continue to work on prioritizing and customizing the  
28 remaining career clusters and identifying additional career paths following the report date and  
29 shall subsequently report to the State Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Education  
30 Oversight Committee by May 1, 2010.

31 The Commission shall work closely with the business community across the State  
32 and shall encourage businesses and business leaders to partner with the Commission on the  
33 work of the Commission and to establish public-private partnerships with the pilot schools.

34 The Commission may accept gifts and grant funds. Said gifts and grants may be  
35 received for the purpose of defraying the expense of travel on a learning tour of innovative  
36 schools both inside and out of the State.

37 **SECTION 4.** The chair may appoint an advisory committee in each economic  
38 region to assist it in its work.

39 **SECTION 5.** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may  
40 exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.  
41 The Commission may meet at anytime upon the call of the chair. The Commission may meet in  
42 the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

43 With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services  
44 Officer shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of  
45 Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to  
46 the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the  
47 Commission. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as  
48 provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Commission hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a  
49 State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.

50 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their subdivisions  
51 shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or available to them.

1                   **SECTION 6.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its  
2 recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly no later than  
3 February 1, 2010.

4                   **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.