

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 28

Short Title: Root Out Poverty/Appropriate Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pierce (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 2, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT CREATING A PERMANENT STATEWIDE POVERTY TASK FORCE AND
3 FUNDING ITS OPERATIONS; ESTABLISHING A GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE
4 ADVISOR ON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION; AND
5 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
8 Article to read:

9 "Article 80.

10 "Statewide Poverty Task Force.

11 "**§ 143-750. Statewide Poverty Task Force.**

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that poverty in this State is widespread, especially
13 among minorities and in rural areas and other parts of the State that have lost significant
14 numbers of jobs. Further, the General Assembly finds that a statewide coordinated effort is
15 required to maximize the State's resources to reduce and potentially eradicate poverty among
16 citizens able and willing to work. To that end, there is created the North Carolina Statewide
17 Poverty Task Force. The Task Force shall be located within the Department of Health and
18 Human Services, which shall provide staff services and space for Task Force meetings.

19 (b) The Task Force shall consist of 30 voting members appointed as follows:

20 (1) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
21 include the following:

22 a. Five members of the House of Representatives.

23 b. Five members of the general public, including persons with expertise
24 in the fields of (i) business and economic development, (ii) job
25 training and adult education, (iii) public health, (iv) affordable
26 housing, and (v) faith-based initiatives.

27 (2) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
28 include the following:

29 a. Five members of the Senate.

30 b. Five members of the general public, including persons with expertise
31 in the fields of (i) early childhood education, (ii) public safety, (iii)
32 health disparities, (iv) child welfare, and (v) higher education.

33 (3) Ten members appointed by the Governor, to include the following:

34 a. Eight members of the general public.



1 b. One member appointed upon the recommendation of the North
2 Carolina Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of
3 Colored People.

4 c. One member appointed upon the recommendation of the North
5 Carolina Latino Coalition.

6 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following nonvoting, ex officio members:

7 (1) The Commissioner of Labor, or that officer's designee.

8 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or that officer's designee.

9 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or that
10 officer's designee.

11 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation, or that officer's designee.

12 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.

13 (6) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or that officer's designee.

14 (7) The Chairman of the Employment Security Commission, or that officer's
15 designee.

16 (8) The Governor's Executive Advisor on Poverty Reduction and Economic
17 Prosperity.

18 (d) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) Identify long- and short-range goals for eliminating poverty in North
20 Carolina.

21 (2) Develop a coordinated, integrated, ongoing approach to poverty reduction in
22 the State by establishing poverty reduction targets.

23 (e) The Governor's Executive Advisor on Poverty Reduction and Economic Prosperity
24 shall chair the Task Force. The Task Force will meet at least quarterly and may contract for
25 consultant services. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies on the Task Force.

26 (f) By March 1 of each year, the Task Force shall submit an annual report to the
27 Governor and to the General Assembly on its poverty reduction and economic recovery
28 recommendations.

29 **"§ 143-751. Member expenses and travel reimbursements.**

30 Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation but may receive travel and
31 subsistence as follows:

32 (1) Members who are officials or employees of a State agency or unit of local
33 government, in accordance with G.S. 138-6.

34 (2) Members who serve in the General Assembly, in accordance with
35 G.S. 120-3.1.

36 (3) All other members at the rate established in G.S. 138-5."

37 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
38 Health and Human Services the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the
39 2015-2016 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the
40 2016-2017 fiscal year to fund the work of the Task Force pursuant to this act and to fund the
41 salary and support costs associated with one new personnel position in that Department to staff
42 the Task Force.

43 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of the
44 Governor the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year
45 and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to fund
46 the salary and support costs associated with one new personnel position in that office to be
47 known as the Governor's Executive Advisor on Poverty Reduction and Economic Prosperity.
48 The position shall be dedicated to implementing interdepartmental collaboration among State
49 agencies, departments, and institutions to advance poverty reduction and economic prosperity
50 in the State.

51 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.