

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 801
Apr 7, 2025
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30336-LM-93

Short Title: LRC Study Paper Towns. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Stevens.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 PAPER TOWNS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) shall study the
6 current status of "paper towns" in North Carolina. For purposes of this act, the term "paper town"
7 means a town that exists in fact but does not provide adequate services, as required by law, to its
8 residents. As part of the study, the LRC shall do the following:

- 9 (1) Determine whether towns incorporated by the General Assembly since 1995
10 are currently providing the services proposed by the petitioners in the petition
11 to incorporate submitted to the then existing Joint Legislative Commission on
12 Municipal Incorporation.
13 (2) Determine whether the services currently being provided by each town are
14 sufficient to sustain the incorporation for purposes of continued taxation,
15 zoning, and regulation of the right to control private property.
16 (3) Determine whether the General Assembly should take action regarding any of
17 the towns studied, including suspension or revocation of the charter, due to
18 the failure of the town to provide critical services sufficient to sustain the
19 incorporation.
20 (4) Review the statutory criteria for incorporation as provided in Part 2 of Article
21 20 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes to determine what, if any, changes
22 should be made to ensure that towns continue to provide a sufficient level of
23 services after being incorporated, including those proposed in the petition to
24 incorporate, to justify continued incorporation of the town.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** The LRC shall make a final report on its study, including any
26 proposed legislation, to the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly upon its
27 convening.

28 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

