

April 7, 1999

S 787. DOT STUDY ROCKS FROM OVERPASSES. *TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTING OVERPASSES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF THROWING OBJECTS FROM THEM.* As title indicates.

Intro. by Shaw of Cumberland.

Ref. to Transportation

STUDY

July 12, 2000

S 787. 2000 STUDIES. Intro. 4/07/99. Senate committee substitute replaces 1st edition with *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE STUDIES BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION, TO CREATE VARIOUS STUDY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, AND TO DIRECT STATE AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO STUDY SPECIFIED ISSUES.* Authorizes the Legislative Research Commission to study (1) governmental and personnel issues; (2) insurance, managed care, and other health care issues; (3) education issues; (4) health and public safety issues; (5) taxation and economic development issues; (6) environmental/agricultural issues; (7) transportation issues; (8) criminal law issues; (9) civil law issues; and (10) the court system. Creates the State Government Gender Equity Study Comm'n to study gender pay equity issues in state government employment. Requires the Environmental Review Comm'n to review the findings and recommendations of the August 1999 report of the Estuarine Shoreline Protection Stakeholders Team of the Coastal Resources Comm'n and report its findings and recommendations to the 2001 General Assembly. Requires the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee to study issues related to counselors and social workers in public schools, the need for instruction in foreign languages in elementary schools, and the feasibility of increasing the minimum number of instructional days and hours and to report to the 2001 General Assembly prior to its convening. Requires the Legislative Ethics Committee to study the need for and advisability of establishing conflicts of interest guidelines for public members of advisory committees and commissions in the executive and legislative branches of state government. Requires the Dep't of Health and Human Services and the Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction with specified local government agencies and representatives of other groups, to study (1) ways to more effectively coordinate the efforts of the two agencies to collect and enforce child support and (2) the problems with and barriers to the establishment of a unified system of child support collection and enforcement. Requires DHHS and the Dep't of Public Instruction, in conjunction with the Dep't of Agriculture and Consumer Services, foodbanks, and other programs, to study the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Summer Food Service Program and the underutilization of these programs. Directs the same agencies to conduct a comprehensive study of the Food Stamps Program. Directs DHHS, in consultation with listed groups, to study dental services for Medicaid recipients. Requires the State Board of Elections to study issues related to the public school calendar. Amends SL 2000-67, Section 11.23, to require DHHS to conduct its developmental disabilities study in consultation with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Repeals Section 11.40 of SL 2000-67, which amended GS 130A-131.15 and established programmatic requirements for funding teen pregnancy prevention programs, and amends SL 2000-67, Section 5, to clarify that it applies to appropriations from the TANF Block Grant.

Amends GS Chapter 120 to add new Article 12N establishing the Joint Legislative Committee on the Future of North Carolina Railroads, composed of eight members of the House appointed by the Speaker and eight Senate members appointed by the President Pro Tempore. The committee shall (1) oversee the operation, structure, management, and long-range plans of the NC Railroad; (2) evaluate the importance of railroads and railroad infrastructure improvements to economic development in North Carolina; (3) study the future of passenger and freight rail service; and (4) study expediting the process of property dispute resolution between private landowners and railroad companies.

July 13, 2000

S 787. 2000 STUDIES. Intro. 04/07/99. Conference report recommends the following changes to 2nd edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Changes title to *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE STUDIES BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION, TO MAKE PERMANENT THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD STUDY COMMISSION, TO CREATE THE 1898 WILMINGTON RACE RIOT COMMISSION, AND TO DIRECT STATE AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO STUDY SPECIFIED ISSUES*. Modifies list of bills and issues that Legislative Research Comm'n may study, which modification includes the deletion of tax and criminal law bills. Deletes provision creating a State Government Gender Equity Study Comm'n. Creates the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Comm'n to develop a historical record of the riot by gathering oral testimony and documents; Comm'n shall consist of 13 members, three appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, three appointed by the Speaker of the House, three appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Wilmington, and two appointed by the New Hanover County Commissioners; and Comm'n shall terminate on December 31, 2002.

Authorizes the Election Laws Study Comm'n to study second primary elections. Authorizes the Revenue Laws Study Comm'n to study the simplification of state revenue and tax forms, tax credits, the establishment of an investment advisory committee, the homestead exemption, simplification of telecommunications taxes, and interstate tax cooperation. Authorizes the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee to study public school bidding laws, textbook distribution methods, school counselors and social workers, foreign language instruction, and the feasibility of increasing the minimum number of instructional hours and days. Authorizes the Joint Legislative Health Care Oversight Committee to study elder care protection, the issue of State Pain Policy and Medical Practice, and criminal background checks in the adult care industry. Authorizes the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee to study abandoned vehicles on state roads and policy associated with retirement benefits for part-time DOT employees. Deletes provisions creating a new Article 2N and establishing a Joint Legislative Committee on the Future of North Carolina Railroads and instead amends Section 27.25(b) of S.L. 1999-237 to direct the Future of the North Carolina Railroad Study Comm'n to study railroad infrastructure improvements, methods for expediting property disputes, and long range plans for the North Carolina Railroad. Authorizes the Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources in both the Senate and House to study the current organization of the Dep't of Environment and Natural Resources. Authorizes the State Board of Education to identify and evaluate strategies for implementing an integrated curriculum for providing interdisciplinary studies. Changes reporting date for DHHS hunger program studies to provide that interim report is due Dec. 1, 2000, and final report is due March 1, 2001.