

May 25, 2010

**H 2009. WOOD/CROP BIOMASS STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP.** Filed 5/25/10. *TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA WOOD AND CROP BIOMASS STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY, STUDY, AND RECOMMEND A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF APPROPRIATE AND TARGETED POLICIES AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO: (1) ENSURE A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF SUSTAINABLY MANAGED WOOD AND CROP BIOMASS FOR ENERGY PURPOSES AND OTHER SECTORS; (2) DEVELOP ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES; AND (3) INTEGRATE WOOD AND CROP BIOMASS UTILIZATION INTO THE STATE'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.*

Establishes a 15 member Wood and Crop Biomass Strategic Working Group, convened jointly by the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the North Carolina Solar Center at North Carolina State University to consider the issues indicated in the act's title. Tasks the group with, among other things, clarifying the statutory definition of renewable energy resources in GS 62-133.8, determining the total amount of wood and crop biomass required to meet projected demand for renewable energy, determining the incentives available for biomass production facilities, and the community impacts of biomass production facilities. Requires the group to meet monthly or upon the call of the conveners beginning no later than August 1, 2010, and to submit a final report on its findings, recommendations, and any legislative proposals by May 1, 2011. Appropriates \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Biofuels Center of North Carolina for the 2010-11 fiscal year to hire or contract for additional staff as provided. Effective July 1, 2010.

**Intro. by Harrison.**

APPROP, STUDY