

March 24, 2009

H 756. EQUINE INDUSTRY COMMISSION. Filed 3/24/09. *TO ESTABLISH THE EQUINE INDUSTRY COMMISSION AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE WORK AND STAFFING OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY COMMISSION.*

Enacts a new Part 30, "Equine Industry Commission," in Article 9 of GS Chapter 143B to establish the 15 member Equine Industry Commission (Commission), an independent agency located within the Department of Administration, to promote and expand the equine industry in North Carolina. Provides that the Commission consists of four members appointed by the Governor, four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the North Carolina Horse Council or the chairman's designee, the Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner's designee, and the President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation or the President's designee. Provides for membership terms, filling of vacancies, member compensation, member removal, meetings, assignment of property, and designation of office space. Requires the Commission to review and evaluate recommendations resulting from the Equine Industry Study conducted by the Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., which included an assessment of the numbers, composition, and value of the equine industry in the state, an analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of the industry on the state's economy, and the development of a comprehensive plan to maximize the economic opportunities presented by the equine industry. Enumerates additional duties and powers. Requires the Commission to submit to the General Assembly, the chairs of the Senate and House of Representative Appropriations Committees, the Governor's Office, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce by October 1 of each year, and more often if deemed necessary, a comprehensive report incorporating specific recommendations of the Commission for retaining and expanding the equine industry in the state. Specifies other information to be included in the report. Provides that initial terms of members are to commence on July 1, 2009, with (1) the four members appointed by the Governor serving two-year terms, (2) two of the members appointed by the President Pro Tem. serving two-year terms and two members serving three-year terms, and (3) two of the members appointed by the Speaker serving two-year terms and two members serving three-year terms. Requires the Commission's initial report to be submitted by October 1, 2010.

Appropriates \$250,000 for 2009-10 and \$250,000 for 2010-11 from the General Fund to the Department of Administration to be used for the Commission's work and to implement this act.

Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Cole.

GS 143B, APPROP