

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 783*
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H783-PCS80217-RD-14

Short Title: Study Comm./Youth Aging Out of Foster Care.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING A JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON YOUTH
3 TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is created the Joint Legislative Study Commission on Youth
6 Transitioning Out of Foster Care. The Commission shall consist of 12 members appointed as
7 follows:

- 8 (1) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
9 include:
10 a. Four members of the House of Representatives.
11 b. Two members of the general public, one of whom is a youth who has
12 aged out of foster care.
13 (2) Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to
14 include:
15 a. Four members of the Senate.
16 b. Two members of the general public, one of whom is a person who
17 provides transitional living services to youths aging out of foster
18 care.

19 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the
20 Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Commission. Vacancies on the Commission shall be
21 filled by the same appointing authority who made the initial appointment. The Commission
22 may meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. The Commission may meet in the
23 Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Commission may contract for
24 consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may
26 exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4,
27 including the power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to
28 provide any information, data, or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their
29 records, or otherwise available to them and the power to subpoena witnesses.

30 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative
31 Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The
32 House of Representatives and Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical
33 staff to the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by



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1 the Commission. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at
2 the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

3 **SECTION 2.** The Commission shall study the needs of youth transitioning out of
4 the foster care system. In conducting the study, the Commission shall consider issues related to
5 the following:

- 6 (1) The challenges facing youth transitioning out of foster care, particularly in
7 the areas of education, housing, health care, and employment, as compared
8 to youth not in foster care.
- 9 (2) The impact on youth transitioning out of foster care when issues relating to
10 education, housing, health care, and employment are not addressed,
11 including incarceration, substance abuse, pregnancy, victimization, and
12 homelessness.
- 13 (3) Whether data or statistics are available regarding youth transitioning out of
14 foster care in this State.
- 15 (4) The State's current laws and policies regarding youth in foster care.
- 16 (5) What, if any, programs exist in this State to address the issue of youth
17 transitioning out of foster care and an assessment of the shortfalls and
18 benefits of such programs.
- 19 (6) Legislation adopted or programs established by other states regarding youth
20 transitioning out of foster care.
- 21 (7) The appropriate age to which assistance should be extended for youth
22 transitioning out of foster care.
- 23 (8) How foster care is currently funded and what funding sources may be
24 available for youth transitioning out of foster care.
- 25 (9) Any other matter the Commission deems relevant to the study.

26 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall report its findings, recommendations, and
27 legislative proposals to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly on or before
28 June 1, 2010. The Commission shall terminate upon filing its final report.

29 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.