

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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SENATE DRS35276-RK-31 (03/28)

Short Title: Create Military Affairs Commission. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Brown (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. The North Carolina Advisory Commission on Military Affairs is  
5 hereby abolished.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 127C of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

7 "Chapter 127C.

8 "~~Advisory Commission on Military Affairs.~~ North Carolina Military Affairs Commission.

9 "~~§ 127C-1. Creation of the North Carolina Advisory Commission on Military~~  
10 ~~Affairs.~~ Commission established; purpose; membership; transaction of  
11 business.

12 (a) Establishment. – There is established the North Carolina Military Affairs  
13 Commission. The Commission shall be located within the Department of Public Safety for  
14 organizational, budgetary, and administrative purposes.

15 (b) Purpose. – The purpose of the Commission is to advise the General Assembly, State  
16 officials, and State agencies on:

17 (1) Strengthening the State's relationship with the military to protect the  
18 installations of this State from future defense budget cuts or military  
19 downsizing by providing a sound infrastructure, affordable housing, and  
20 affordable education for military members and their families and to be  
21 viewed by national military leaders as the most military-friendly State in the  
22 nation.

23 (2) Supporting the long-term goal of a viable and prosperous military presence  
24 in this State, which shall include, at a minimum, the Commission's  
25 development of a comprehensive economic impact study of military  
26 activities in North Carolina, with recommendations for initiatives to support  
27 this goal.

28 (3) Ways to coordinate the State's interests in future activities of the Department  
29 of Defense with the promotion of the State's economic interests in the  
30 development of the State's natural resources, including wind, solar, and  
31 natural gas and oil exploration.

32 (4) Initiatives to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their  
33 dependents, including educational opportunities, occupational licensure,  
34 recreational activities, and access to the courts.

35 (5) Any other issue or matter that the Commission deems appropriate in relation  
36 to the presence of the military in this State.



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1       ~~There is created in the Office of the Governor the North Carolina Advisory Commission on~~  
2 ~~Military Affairs to advise the Governor and the Secretary of Commerce on protecting the~~  
3 ~~existing military infrastructure in this State and to promote new military missions and~~  
4 ~~economic opportunities for the State and its citizens.~~

5 **"§ 127C-2. Membership.**

6       (a) ~~The North Carolina Advisory Commission on Military Affairs~~ Commission shall  
7 consist of ~~24~~15 voting members, who shall serve on the Executive Committee, and 17  
8 nonvoting, ex officio members who shall serve by reason of their ~~positions~~positions, as  
9 provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

10       (b) The Executive Committee shall be appointed as follows:

11           (1) ~~Three~~Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
12 ~~Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of a recognized veterans'~~  
13 ~~organization.~~Representatives, who shall be members of the House, with one  
14 member from or residing near each of the following communities:  
15 Jacksonville, Havelock, Goldsboro, and Fayetteville.

16           (2) ~~Three~~Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the ~~Senate,~~  
17 ~~one of whom shall be a member of a recognized veterans'~~  
18 ~~organization.~~Senate, who shall be members of the Senate, with one member  
19 from or residing near each of the following communities: Jacksonville,  
20 Havelock, Goldsboro, and Fayetteville.

21           (3) ~~Fifteen~~Seven members appointed by the Governor, consisting of:

22           a. ~~Three~~One representative from the Jacksonville  
23 ~~community.~~community, who shall have retired from the Armed  
24 Forces of the United States, with more than 20 years of military  
25 service.

26           b. ~~Three~~One representative from the Havelock  
27 ~~community.~~community, who shall have retired from the Armed  
28 Forces of the United States, with more than 20 years of military  
29 service.

30           c. ~~Three~~One representative from the Goldsboro  
31 ~~community.~~community, who shall have retired from the Armed  
32 Forces of the United States, with more than 20 years of military  
33 service.

34           d. ~~Three~~One representative from the Fayetteville  
35 ~~community.~~community, who shall have retired from the Armed  
36 Forces of the United States, with more than 20 years of military  
37 service.

38           e. Three public members from across the State.

39       (c) The following members, or their designee, shall serve ex officio:

40           (1) The Lieutenant Governor.

41           (1a) Secretary of Public Safety.

42           (2) Secretary of Commerce.

43           (2a) The Secretary of Transportation.

44           (2b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

45           (3) Commanding General 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg.

46           (4) Commanding General Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune.

47           (5) Commanding General Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point.

48           (6) Commander 4th FW, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

49           (7) Commander 43rd Airlift Wing, Pope Air Force Base.

50           (8) Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Support Center, Elizabeth City.

51           (9) Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard.

1 (10) The Executive Director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

2 (11) The Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County  
3 Commissioners.

4 (12) The Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs, Department of Administration.

5 (13) The President of The University of North Carolina.

6 (14) The President of the North Carolina Community College System.

7 (d) ~~The Governor shall designate one member of the Executive Committee appointed~~  
8 ~~pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to serve as chair. The Executive Committee shall elect~~  
9 ~~four persons from amongst its membership to serve as vice chairs.~~chair of the Commission  
10 shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Committee membership of the  
11 Commission.

12 (e) The terms of the appointed members of the ~~Executive Committee~~Commission shall  
13 be ~~as follows:~~two years.

14 (1) ~~The members initially appointed by the Speaker of the House of~~  
15 ~~Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve~~  
16 ~~terms ending on December 31, 2003.~~

17 (2) ~~Seven of the members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms~~  
18 ~~ending on December 31, 2002.~~

19 (3) ~~Eight of the members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms~~  
20 ~~ending on December 31, 2003.~~

21 ~~Thereafter, all members shall serve two year terms.~~

22 (f) The initial meeting of the Commission shall be within 30 days of the effective date  
23 of this act at a time and place to be determined by the Secretary of Public Safety. The first order  
24 of business at the initial meeting of the Commission shall be the election of a chair, after which  
25 the Commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman or the Military Advisor within the  
26 Office of the Governor. The members shall receive no compensation for attendance at  
27 meetings, except a per diem expense reimbursement. Members of the Commission who are not  
28 officers or employees of the State shall receive reimbursement for subsistence and travel  
29 expenses at rates set out in G.S. 138-5 from funds made available to the Commission. Members  
30 of the Commission who are officers or employees of the State shall be reimbursed for travel  
31 and subsistence at the rates set out in G.S. 138-6 from funds made available to the Commission.

32 **"§ 127C-3. Military Advisor.**

33 The Military Advisor within the Office of the Governor shall serve as the administrative  
34 head of the Commission and be responsible for the operations and normal business activities of  
35 the Commission, with oversight by the Executive Committee.

36 **~~"§ 127C-4. Purposes.~~**

37 ~~The Commission shall have the following responsibilities and duties:~~

38 (1) ~~Advise the Governor and Secretary of Commerce on how to strengthen the~~  
39 ~~State's relationship with the military to protect the installations of this State~~  
40 ~~from the results of any future defense budget cuts or military downsizing by~~  
41 ~~providing a sound infrastructure, affordable housing, and affordable~~  
42 ~~education for military members and their families, working to be viewed by~~  
43 ~~national military leaders as the most military friendly State in the nation.~~

44 (2) ~~Develop a strategic plan to provide initiatives to support the long term~~  
45 ~~viability and prosperity of the military of this State that shall include, at~~  
46 ~~least:~~

47 a. ~~A comprehensive Economic Impact Study of Military Activities in~~  
48 ~~North Carolina to be conducted by the North Carolina State~~  
49 ~~University Department of Economics and the East Carolina~~  
50 ~~University Office of Regional Development.~~

- 1                                 b.     ~~A Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) Analysis~~
- 2                                         ~~conducted by a professional strategic planning group on the current~~
- 3                                         ~~status of the military in North Carolina.~~
- 4                 (3)     ~~Study ways to improve educational opportunities for military personnel in~~
- 5                                         ~~North Carolina.~~
- 6                 (4)     ~~Assist in coordinating the State's interests in future activities of the~~
- 7                                         ~~Department of Defense.~~
- 8                 (5)     ~~Promote initiatives to improve the quality of life for military personnel in~~
- 9                                         ~~this State."~~
- 10                 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013.