

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 540
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40336-MM-45

Short Title: Study Workforce Development for Refugees. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Quick.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FOR REFUGEES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) shall study workforce
6 development for refugees. As part of its study, the LRC shall determine:

- 7 (1) The skills and education that many refugees, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
8 holders, and asylum seekers who have been granted asylum (asylees) bring
9 with them to North Carolina.
10 (2) The challenges and barriers that refugees, SIV holders, and asylees face to
11 find employment in their areas of expertise.
12 (3) The difficulties refugees, SIV holders, and asylees face in obtaining
13 recognition for their foreign credentials with the result that their professional
14 skills are not fully utilized.
15 (4) The extent to which the underemployment of refugees, SIV holders, and
16 asylees deprives North Carolina's economy of millions of dollars.

17 **SECTION 1.(b)** Upon the conclusion of the study authorized under subsection (a)
18 of this section, the LRC shall make recommendations regarding:

- 19 (1) Opportunities to tap into the pool of skilled individuals and licensed
20 professionals who are refugees, SIV holders, and asylees to work in areas
21 where they have expertise, as well as to fill key gaps in our labor force.
22 (2) Ways to strengthen workforce development opportunities including
23 legislative, administrative, and regulatory changes.

24 **SECTION 1.(c)** The LRC shall report its findings, together with any proposed
25 legislation, to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly upon its convening.

26 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

