

§ 120-. Commission established.

The Climate Change Commission is hereby established.

§ 120-. Membership; cochaurs; vacancies; quorum.

(a) The initial membership shall be comprised of members of the Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change who shall be appointed for one year. Thereafter, the Climate Change Commission shall consist of 18 members: three Senators and three other members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; three Representatives and three other members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and six members appointed by the Governor. The members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing officer.

(b) Members shall be appointed to 3-year terms; however, in order to establish staggered terms, for the initial appointments, each appointing body shall appoint two members to 3-year terms, two members to 2-year terms, and two members to a 1-year term. Successors shall be appointed to 3-year terms.

(c) Members who are not elected officials must be an expert in one or more of the following fields: energy, natural resource conservation, economics, engineering, climatology, finance, law, policy, transportation, land use, coastal geology, consumer protection, state energy policy, or another field substantially related to the duties and functions of the Commission. The Commission shall fairly represent the fields specified in this subparagraph.

(d) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one Senator to serve as cochair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one Representative to serve as cochair.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of the Commission shall continue to serve for so long as the member remains a member of the General Assembly and no successor has been appointed. A member of the General Assembly who does not seek reelection or is not reelected to the General Assembly may complete a term of service on the Commission until the day on which a new General Assembly convenes. A member of the Commission who resigns or is removed from service in the General Assembly shall be deemed to have resigned or been removed from office on the Commission. Any vacancy that occurs on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) A quorum of the Commission shall consist of ten members.

§ 120-. Powers and duties.

The Climate Change Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To study on a continuing basis, as they relate to human health, environmental and economic impacts, information related to climate change including but not limited to:

(a) The existing and predicted emissions and sequestration of greenhouse gases within the State, including projections through a minimum of 15 years;

(b) The existing and expected impacts of global climate change on the citizens, natural resources, ecosystem services, and economy of the State, including agriculture, travel and tourism, recreation, coastal real estate, insurance, and other economic sectors;

(c) Actions taken by the federal government and by other states to address climate change;

(d) Economic opportunities for the State that may result from international, national, and state action to address global climate change and the emerging carbon market;

(e) The costs of any action taken by the State to address global climate change on individuals, individual households, local governments, businesses, educational institutions, the State government, and other institutions and economic sectors; and

(f) The benefits of any action taken by or within the State or other states and at the national or international levels to address global climate change on individuals, individual households, local governments, businesses, educational institutions, the State government, and other institutions and economic sectors.

(2) To make recommendations to the General Assembly including but not limited to the following:

(a) Greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals;

(b) Carbon sequestration goals; and

(c) Ways in which State government may reduce direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions.

3) In addition, the Commission may make recommendations regarding:

(a) How the resilience of vulnerable communities can be strengthened;

(b) How appropriate institutional and financial architecture for adaptation can be established;

(c) How the State can improve institutional capacity to adapt to climate change;

- (d) Identification and correction of policies and procedures that currently undermine the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- (e) How new and existing financial resources can be mobilized to address climate change; and
- (f) Identification of ways to integrate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into development plans of State agencies and local governments.

§ 120-. Additional powers.

- (a) The Commission, while in the discharge of official duties, may exercise all the powers of a joint committee of the General Assembly provided for under the provisions of G.S. 120-19, and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any time upon the call of either cochair, whether or not the General Assembly is in session. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services Commission
- (b) Notwithstanding any rule or resolution to the contrary, proposed legislation to implement any recommendation of the Commission regarding any study the Commission is authorized to undertake or any report authorized or required to be made by or to the Commission may be introduced and considered during any session of the General Assembly.
- (c) The Commission may contract for consultants or hire employees in accordance with G.S. 120-32.02.

§ 120-. Compensation and expenses of members.

Members of the Commission shall receive per diem and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1 for members who are legislators, and shall receive compensation and per diem and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 138-5 for members who are not legislators.

§ 120-. Staffing.

The Legislative Services Officer shall assign as staff to the Commission professional employees of the General Assembly, as approved by the Legislative Services Commission. Clerical staff shall be assigned to the Commission through the offices of the Directors of Legislative Assistants of the Senate and House of Representatives. The expenses of employment of clerical staff shall be borne by the Commission.

§ 120-. Funding.

From funds available to the General Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate monies to fund the Commission.