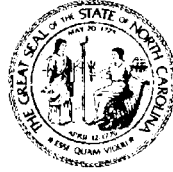


NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

RALEIGH, NC 27601



October 29, 2013

Senator Tom Apodaca
Chairman
Legislative Research Commission
North Carolina State Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2010
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Representative Tim Moore
Chairman
Legislative Research Commission
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2301
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Apodaca and Representative Moore:

Pursuant to G.S. 120-30.13, Senator Apodaca has been designated as the Senate Cochair of the 2013-2014 Legislative Research Commission ("Commission" or "LRC"). Representative Moore has been designated as the House Cochair of the Commission.

As you prepare your agenda for the Commission, pursuant to G.S. 120-30.17, we authorize the Commission to appoint the following Study Committees to study the following matters. The Cochairs and appointees to each Committee are also identified. Please restrict each study committee to a maximum of four meetings unless additional meetings are pre-approved by our offices.

The Commission may make an interim report of the recommendations of its study committees, including recommended legislation, to the 2014 Session of the 2013 General Assembly and shall make a final report to the 2015 General Assembly.

Authorized Joint Study Committees:

Market Based Solutions and Elimination of Anti-Competitive Practices in Health Care -
The LRC Study Committee on Market Based Solutions and Elimination of Anti-Competitive Practices in Health Care shall study federal and state barriers to a market-based health care delivery system, compare hospital-based operating room and ambulatory surgical centers as a

venue for the provision of surgical services, study North Carolina's certificate of need program in comparison with other states, and study other related certificate of need issues.

Specifically, the study shall include:

- (1) A study of barriers to a market-based health care delivery system from the federal level, including:
 - (a) Federal health care laws.
 - (b) Federal regulation of health care service delivery.
 - (c) Federal reimbursement issues.
- (2) A study of barriers to a market-based health care delivery system at the State level including:
 - (a) State health care laws.
 - (b) State regulation of health service delivery.
 - (c) State reimbursement issues.
 - (d) The impact of the certificate of need program on smaller community hospitals.
- (3) A comparison of same day surgery offered by hospital-based or hospital-owned operating rooms and nonhospital-based ambulatory surgical centers. The comparison shall include the following factors: cost, quality of care, availability, and charity care.
- (4) A study of the North Carolina certificate of need law in comparison to other states both with and without certificate of need programs.
- (5) A review of restrictive covenants in physician employment agreements. This may include:
 - (a) Their impact on health care costs.
 - (b) Their impact on health outcomes.
 - (c) Whether they restrict access to medical services.
- (6) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Apodaca	Chair, Ex Officio	Rep. Avila	Chair
Sen. Don Davis		Rep. Brisson	
Sen. Jim Davis		Rep. Lambeth	
Sen. Hise		Rep. Ramsey	
Sen. Pate		Rep. Szoka	
Sen. Rucho		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Health Care Provider Practice Sustainability and Training/Additional Transparency in

Health Care - The LRC Study Committee on Health Care Provider Practice Sustainability and Training/Additional Transparency in Health Care shall study ways to enhance health care provider recruitment, retention and distribution in order to increase access to medical care and make recommendations on the following:

- (1) A comprehensive assessment of the State's current and projected supply and distribution of health care providers. The assessment shall identify the health care provider specialties that are currently most needed in this State and those that are expected to be in greater need in the future.

- (2) A comprehensive review of all existing State programs that are designed to recruit and retain health care providers, including an examination of program focused on recruiting new and partially retired health care providers.
- (3) A comprehensive review of the current and future role and availability of physician extenders as a partial solution for increasing the availability of medical care in this State, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas. The term “physician extender” includes physicians’ assistants and registered nurses licensed to practice in this state.
- (4) A review of programs and strategies used in other states that are designed to recruit and retain health care providers, including an examination of programs and strategies focused on recruiting new and partially retired health care providers.
- (5) A review of programs and strategies for recruiting and retaining health care providers, including consultation related to the State’s existing administrative and regulatory burdens that discourage health care providers from practicing in the State.
- (6) An examination of the cost and benefits of requiring health care providers to quote to a patient their out of pocket expenditures before a service or procedure is performed and potential impacts that this requirement may have on quality of care and health outcomes.
- (7) An examination of whether primary care providers are best equipped to provide such quotes.
- (8) A comprehensive review of all existing State programs that are designed to improve access to health care provider care using telemedicine, including the name of the program, a description of the program, and details on program performance.
- (9) Identification of programs and strategies employed in other states that are designed to improve access to health care provider care using telemedicine.
- (10) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Hise	Chair	Rep. Hollo	Chair
Sen. Curtis		Rep. Fulghum	
Sen. McLaurin		Rep. Insko	
Sen. Tarte		Rep. Jones	
Sen. Tucker		Rep. Susan Martin	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Jordan Lake - The LRC Study Committee on Jordan Lake shall consider all issues deemed relevant to addressing the water quality in Jordan Lake. The Committee shall undertake, at a minimum, the following activities:

- (1) Review the history of Jordan Lake and its nutrient loading issues.
- (2) Evaluate the current condition and uses of Jordan Lake.
- (3) Consider the potential future conditions and uses of Jordan Lake.
- (4) Review statutory law for the management of nutrients in the State.

- (5) Perform an analysis of the costs associated with compliance to State and local governments, citizens, and industry of existing and projected regulations and policies to manage and improve water quality in Jordan Lake.
- (6) Perform an analysis of existing or proposed management strategies from other impaired water bodies within the State.
- (7) Receive input from experts in nutrient management on strategies for management of nutrients in Jordan Lake.
- (8) Receive input from interested stakeholders, including local governments and representatives of agricultural, development, environmental, and other interests, on strategies for management of nutrients in Jordan Lake.
- (9) Develop recommendations, including legislative proposals, addressing water quality in Jordan Lake.
- (10) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

The recommendations should include a projected timeline for implementation, including rule development by appropriate agencies, boards, and commissions. The recommendations shall consider the efficacy of a primary water quality strategy that focuses on treatment and remediation of Jordan Lake rather than upstream mitigation strategies, the projected costs, the distribution of cost-sharing between local governments within the affected basin, and an assessment of the likelihood in achieving measureable protection of the water quality in Jordan Lake.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Gunn	Chair	Rep. Faircloth	Chair
Sen. Goolsby		Rep. Hardister	
Sen. Hunt		Rep. Murry	
Sen. McKissick		Rep. McManus	
Sen. Wade		Rep. Ross	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Assessment of Regulated and Non-Regulated Industry Utility Fees - The LRC Study Committee on the Assessment of Regulated and Non-Regulated Industry Utility Fees shall examine the regulatory fee structure of the North Carolina Utilities Commission to ensure that fees are not inequitably assessed. The committee shall place particular focus on the fees assessed to entities that opted for lower levels of regulation. The committee may also consider appropriate remedies to ensure sufficient funding to allow the Utilities Commission to fulfill its statutory obligations.

The committee may study other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Brown	Chair	Rep. Hager	Chair
Sen. Bingham		Rep. Floyd	
Sen. Harrington		Rep. Lewis	
Sen. Hartsell		Rep. Saine	
Sen. Jenkins		Rep. Warren	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Common Core State Standards - The LRC Study Committee on Common Core State Standards shall comprehensively study both current and suggested curriculum standards in K-12 education in the State. The study may include the efficacy of the Common Core State Standards ("CCSS") and potential financial, educational and legal impacts on the State. The Committee shall focus on the questions of cost and benefits of any existing or proposed curriculum standards and whether those standards will directly and positively affect educational outcomes in the State. The Committee may study any other issues pertinent to this study.

In studying the costs and benefits of existing and proposed curriculum standards, the committee shall examine:

- (1) CCSS adoption in the State as compared to other states and jurisdictions.
- (2) Public school data collection, dissemination, and access policies employed in the State since the adoption of the CCSS.
- (3) Fiscal, educational or legal consequences of State withdrawal from CCSS and/or the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium.
- (4) The proper procedure for the State to modify standards up to the allowable 15%.
- (5) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Soucek	Chair	Rep. Holloway	Chair
Sen. Barefoot		Rep. Brandon	
Sen. Daniel		Rep. Cotham	
Sen. Nesbitt		Rep. Elmore	
Sen. Newton		Rep. Horn	
Sen. Parmon		Rep. Pittman	
Sen. Tillman		Rep. Speciale	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Cultural and Natural Resources - The LRC Study Committee on Cultural and Natural Resources shall develop a comprehensive management plan for State-owned cultural and natural resource assets. The committee shall study any issues related to the current inventory of assets owned or operated by the State. Specifically, the committee may undertake the following tasks:

- (1) Develop a comprehensive inventory of natural and cultural resources assets owned and/or operated by the State, including parks, game lands, forests, and historic sites including location, size, description and other relevant statistics such as maintenance and operating costs, visitation statistics, revenue generated, infrastructure needs, and expansion opportunities.
- (2) Perform a nationwide analysis of limited scope of similar natural and cultural resources assets at the federal, state, and local governmental level to compare and contrast strategies dealing with management, operations, acquisition and divestiture of such assets.
- (3) Consider strategies that can lower operational and maintenance costs as well as increase revenue streams through initiatives including management restructuring, asset consolidation, divestiture of underperforming or non-critical assets, removal of unnecessary or non-critical infrastructure, outsourcing of operations, or long-

term leasing or sale of asset portions to support the development of new business models to support asset operation, maintenance, and potential expansion.

- (4) Any other issues relevant to preservation and access to the diverse cultural and natural resource assets of the State.
- (5) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Brock	Chair	Rep. Dollar	Chair
Sen. Cook		Rep. Cleveland	
Sen. Jackson		Rep. McNeill	
Sen. Rabon		Rep. Presnell	
Sen. Walters		Rep. Wilkins	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Civilian Credit for Military Training and State Adjutant General Selection Criteria - The LRC Study Committee on Civilian Credit for Military Training and State Adjutant General Selection Criteria shall study the feasibility, costs and benefits of awarding military personnel credit towards professional licensure in the State, where the military personnel's occupational specialty is germane to licenses, certificates and certifications issued by the State professional licensing entities. The committee shall also study the criteria and methods utilized for selecting Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard and shall make appropriate recommendations for improvement of that process as necessary. The committee may study any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Brunstetter	Chair	Rep. Hastings	Chair
Sen. Clark		Rep. Conrad	
Sen. Meredith		Rep. Johnson	
Sen. Rabin		Rep. Grier Martin	
Sen. Sanderson		Rep. Whitmire	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Omnibus Foster Care and Dependency - The LRC Study Committee on Omnibus Foster Care and Dependency shall study comprehensively juvenile and family law pertaining to abuse, neglect, dependency, adoption, foster care and parental rights in the State. In conducting the study, the Committee shall consider issues related to the following:

- (1) The State's current laws regarding abuse, neglect, dependency, adoption, and foster care.
- (2) The impact of any federal laws on the issues of abuse, neglect, dependency, adoption, and foster care in the State.
- (3) The issue of reunification and how it relates to the best interest of the child standard.
- (4) The issue of termination of parental rights, specifically studying the process used in terminating a person's parental rights.

- (5) The manner in which other states and the US Congress have addressed parental rights.
- (6) Whether parental rights can be extended to individuals other than a child's biological parents.
- (7) What compelling government interests could justify interfering with parental rights.
- (8) The impact abuse, neglect, dependency, and foster care determinations have on adoptions.
- (9) Whether improvements are needed to current abuse, neglect, dependency, foster care, and adoption laws to ensure decisions made under those laws represent the best interest of the child.
- (10) A review of the vital records process, specifically regarding the timely issuance of a birth certificate upon the receipt of a final order for adoption.
- (11) The review of legislation adopted by other states relating to abuse, neglect, dependency, foster care, and adoption.
- (12) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Senate Members		House Members	
Sen. Randleman	Chair	Rep. Stevens	Chair
Sen. Allran		Rep. Bryan	
Sen. Barringer		Rep. Ford	
Sen. Blue		Rep. Jordan	
Sen. Robinson		Rep. Lucas	
Sen. Apodaca	Ex Officio	Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Authorized House Study Committees

Property Owner Protection and Rights - The LRC Study Committee on Property Owner Protection and Rights shall study the establishment of a property owner protection act that would favor the free use of land. In conducting the study, the Committee may examine awarding attorneys' fees incurred by a property owner in an action challenging land-use regulations and prohibiting the enforcement of penalties against a property owner for acts not committed by the property owner. As a part of its study, the Committee shall review the issues included in the first edition of House Bill 632, 2013 Regular Session.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Moffitt	Co-Chair	Rep. McElraft	
Rep. Malone	Co-Chair	Rep. McManus	
Rep. William Brawley		Rep. Riddell	
Rep. Bumgardner		Rep. Saine	
Rep. Gill		Rep. Speciale	
Rep. Duane Hall		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Public Enterprise System and Use of Funds - The LRC Study Committee on Public Enterprise Systems and Use of Funds shall study the allowable uses of local government public enterprise system funds. In conducting the study, the Committee shall consider the following:

- (1) Proper accounting controls to ensure transparency in budgeting and accounting for expenditures and interfund transfers of city and county public enterprise services.
- (2) Ways to ensure proper funding of infrastructure maintenance and improvements for local government public enterprises.
- (3) Ways to ensure that local governments monitor aging public enterprise infrastructure to ensure proper maintenance and repair.
- (4) Ways to improve local government public enterprise management.
- (5) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

The Committee shall consult with the Local Government Commission and the School of Government.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Moffitt	Co-Chair	Rep. George Graham	
Rep. Brian Brown	Co-Chair	Rep. Jeter	
Rep. Brisson		Rep. Susan Martin	
Rep. Cleveland		Rep. Stone	
Rep. Collins		Rep. Tine	
Rep. Dixon		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Banking Law Amendments - The LRC Study Committee on Banking Law Amendments shall study issues related to administrative changes to banking law in the State. The Committee may consider issues related to the following:

- (1) Inclusion of non-depository industry representation on the State Banking Commission.
- (2) Elimination of the requirement of an audited statement of financial condition under G.S. 53-244.104.
- (3) Adjusting the amount of the assessment fee imposed under G.S. 53-244.104A.
- (4) Adjusting the amount of the bonds required under G.S. 53-244.103.
- (5) Allowing the origination of reverse mortgages by all mortgage loan originators, mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage servicers, who are licensed by the Commissioner of Banks.
- (6) Revising the procedure by which the Commissioner of Banks makes rules.
- (7) Eliminating the requirement that the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency adopt rules and oversee the training of housing counselors.
- (8) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. John Bell	Co-Chair	Rep. Rodney Moore	
Rep. Jordan	Co-Chair	Rep. Ross	
Rep. Rob Bryan		Rep. Samuelson	
Rep. Earle		Rep. Szoka	
Rep. Goodman		Rep. Younts	
Rep. Hardister		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Mechanics Liens and Leasehold Improvements - The LRC Study Committee on Mechanics Liens and Leasehold Improvements shall study the need to modify existing laws to better protect the rights of contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers to be paid for the furnishing of labor, materials, rental equipment, and/or professional design or surveying services under a contract with the tenant who holds a leasehold interest in the improved real property.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Stevens	Co-Chair	Rep. Duane. Hall	
Rep. Arp	Co-Chair	Rep. Hamilton	
Rep. Blackwell		Rep. Jackson	
Rep. Brody		Rep. Schaffer	
Rep. Catlin		Rep. Shepard	
Rep. Daughtry		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Land Development - The LRC Study Committee on Land Development shall study the issue of responsibility for maintenance of infrastructure on foreclosed or abandoned properties. The Committee may study issues related to responsibility for carrying out the obligations imposed on owners of subdivided real property, including the need to provide for contingencies resulting from abandonment or foreclosure of the property. As a part of its study, the Committee may consider the following issues:

- (1) The impact on neighboring property owners.
- (2) The impact on local governments.
- (3) The effect on the local and State economy.
- (4) The effect on water and sewer capacity.
- (5) The impact on the tax base of local and State governments.
- (6) The impact on the environment.
- (7) Responsibility for unfulfilled contractual or regulatory obligations of the owner of abandoned or foreclosed property.
- (8) Alternative methods to ensure the availability of funds to meet the cost of fulfilling obligations relating to maintenance of infrastructure or compliance with environmental regulations.
- (9) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Torbett – Co-Chair		Rep. McElraft	
Rep. Brody – Co-Chair		Rep. McGrady	
Rep. Larry Bell		Rep. Millis	
Rep. Hager		Rep. Wells	
Rep. Hanes		Rep. Wray	
Rep. Iler		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Chowanoke Nation Recognition - The LRC Study Committee on Chowanoke Nation Recognition shall study issues surrounding State standards and procedures for officially recognizing an Indian Nation. The study shall examine factors associated with gaining such recognition, comparisons of official tribal recognition policies from other States, and historical precedent for the State bestowing recognition to an Indian Nation. The study shall include:

- (1) Specification of the rights, privileges, and immunities of American Indian Tribes which gain recognition from the State.
- (2) Whether such recognition would make members of the Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to American Indian Tribes.
- (3) Tribal recognition standards and procedures in the State as compared to other states.
- (4) Potential regional and local economic impacts of tribal recognition for the Chowanoke Nation.
- (5) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Steinburg	Co-Chair	Rep. Mobley	
Rep. Stam	Co-Chair	Rep. Samuelson	
Rep. Boles		Rep. Starnes	
Rep. Charles Graham		Rep. West	
Rep. Howard		Rep. Wray	
Rep. Iler		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Unmanned Aircraft Systems - The LRC Study Committee on Unmanned Aircraft Systems shall study both the safety and privacy of its citizens, as well as the economic benefits of enabling unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS"), UAS sub-systems, and peripheral support industries and sciences to develop governmental needs and provide commercial growth in the private and academic sectors in the State. This study shall examine:

- (1) The integration of unmanned aircraft into the national airspace (NAS).
- (2) The diverse operational uses for UAS in the areas of search and rescue, natural disaster mitigation, law enforcement operations, surveying, environmental monitoring and infrastructure monitoring.
- (3) Potential economic benefits to the State through the development of UAS.
- (4) Potential privacy concerns and considerations related to the deployment and use of UAS.

- (5) Potentially viable commercial applications for UAS-enabled technology in the future.
- (6) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

Additionally, the committee shall study issues concerning legal and constitutional limitations of UAS technology. These shall include:

- (1) Government limitations prescribed in the United States Constitution and North Carolina Constitutions concerning illegal searches using UAS technology.
- (2) Whether the common law warrant exceptions developed from the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution extend to the use of UAS including:
 - (a) Imminent harm to life or property.
 - (b) Felony pursuit.
 - (c) Imminent description of evidence, etc.
- (3) The scope of data that may be collected.
- (4) Penalties for unauthorized data collection.
- (5) Admissibility and limitations of evidence collected by UAS technology.
- (6) Data retention and destruction of unauthorized information collected by UAS technology.
- (7) Reporting requirements identifying who used the technology pursuant to a warrant, the offense specified in the warrant, and the nature of the property or person searched.
- (8) Potential extenuating circumstances where legal clarity is needed.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Torbett	Co-Chair	Rep. Harrison	
Rep. Setzer	Co-Chair	Rep. Moffitt	
Rep. Baskerville		Rep. Speciale	
Rep. Faircloth		Rep. Tolson	
Rep. Ford		Rep. Whitmire	
Rep. Fulghum		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Treasurer Investment Targets and State Employee Retirement Options - The LRC Study Committee on Treasurer Investment Targets and State Employee Retirement Options shall study the authority statutorily granted to the State Treasurer over the State pension funds as compared to other states and examine what constitutes a reasonable return on North Carolina’s investments considering the current economic environment. In conducting this study, the Committee may consult the Department of the State Treasurer.

The study shall include the following:

- (1) The current target rate of return for the State's pension fund investments.
- (2) An examination of the level of authority and investment limitations applicable to the State Treasurer as compared to other states.
- (3) A recommendation as to whether the General Assembly should consider revising the current investment targets for state pension fund investments.

- (4) An examination of the realized, annual return on investment for the State's pension fund investments dating back to 2003.
- (5) National trends relating to revisions to the statutory authority of state treasurers and investment targets.
- (6) A review of statutory investment allocation limits applicable to the State Treasurer.
- (7) A review of national trends in revising investment allocation limits for state treasurers.
- (8) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

The Committee shall also examine the establishment of an optional retirement plan which may be elected in lieu of participation in the Teachers' and State Employees Retirement System and issues including the following:

- (1) An examination of legal and administrative frameworks for the establishment of the plan.
- (2) An examination of expected annual start-up costs to the State.
- (3) An examination of persons and entities that may serve as fiduciaries under the plan.
- (4) Any other issues deemed relevant to this issue.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Collins	Co-Chair	Rep. Hurley	
Rep. Ross	Co-Chair	Rep. Jones	
Rep. Blust		Rep. Queen	
Rep. Dobson		Rep. Starnes	
Rep. Dollar		Rep. Waddell	
Rep. Hanes		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio
Rep. Howard			

Wetland and Stream Mitigation - The LRC Committee on Wetland and Stream Mitigation shall study issues related to the overall policies and roles of agencies within State government, the federal government, and the private sector to plan, construct and monitor wetland and stream mitigation. The Committee may study the following:

- (1) The process for annual adjustments of Ecosystem Enhancement Program fees, including whether the use of the Civil Works Construction Cost Index System published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a basis for fee escalation is necessary given the past direction of the General Assembly to base program fees on actual costs.
- (2) Whether compensatory mitigation should be allowed in any hydrologic area located in the same river basin as the site being mitigated. For purposes of this study, the terms "compensatory mitigation" and "hydrologic area" are defined in G.S. 143-214.11.
- (3) Whether compensatory mitigation fee payment system represents the most efficient and effective way to provide compensatory mitigation and how the program could be revised to lessen its economic impact on the State's businesses and industries.

- (4) Whether the State should withdraw from the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which established the Ecosystem Enhancement Program in 2003.
- (5) Whether the Department of Transportation should purchase its stream and wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank within the private sector where available.
- (6) Whether the State should consider assuming the Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting role from the federal government.
- (7) Whether the mitigation projects overseen by the Department of Transportation, Natural Systems Unit have been effective and cost efficient.
- (8) Whether the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' internal review process of stream and wetland mitigation projects designed, stamped, and signed by a licensed professional engineer is necessary and/or appropriate.
- (9) Any other issues associated with stream and wetland mitigation deemed appropriate by the Committee.
- (10) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Lewis	Co-Chair	Rep. Jeter	
Rep. Millis	Co-Chair	Rep. Pierce	
Rep. Alexander		Rep. McGrady	
Rep. Carney		Rep. Shepherd	
Rep. Catlin		Rep. Stam	
Rep. Hastings		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Food Desert Zones - The LRC Study Committee on Food Desert Zones shall study the presence of "food desert zones" in the State and state-based trends in expanding nutritional food access in such areas. The study shall include the following:

- (1) How many individuals in the State live in communities classified as food desert zones.
- (2) National research and trends aimed at addressing food deserts.
- (3) Examples of jobs-based tax incentives for food retailers in food desert zones.
- (4) The proportional relationship between rural and urban communities classified as food desert zones.
- (5) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Starnes	Co-Chair	Rep. Larry Hall	
Rep. Whitmire	Co-Chair	Rep. Holley	
Rep. Robert Brawley		Rep. Langdon	
Rep. Brody		Rep. Setzer	
Rep. Elmore		Rep. Stone	
Rep. Fulghum		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio
Rep. George Graham			

Judicial Efficiency and Effective Administration of Justice - The LRC Committee on Judicial Efficiency and Effective Administration of Justice shall study the structure and needs of the State's judicial and prosecutorial districts. The Committee shall make recommendations on future judicial resource allocation. The study shall include the following:

- (1) Current and historical annual case volume in each district.
- (2) Funding requirement forecasts and actual allocations in each district.
- (3) Past case volume projections in each district as compared to actual case volume.
- (4) Volume of prosecuted cases per judge and per district attorney in each district.
- (5) Average number of hours worked by district administrative staff per case in each district.
- (6) Volume and statistical nature of costly criminal cases in each district in relation to statewide and national judicial averages.

Additionally, the Committee shall study issues related to the provision of effective and efficient administration of justice throughout the State's judicial system. This study shall include the following:

- (1) Operational inefficiencies in case scheduling and management at the District and Superior Court level.
- (2) National trends regarding improved judicial case scheduling and management.
- (3) Comparative salary information for clerks, district attorneys, judges and Highway Patrol officers in North Carolina.
- (4) The impact of discontinued scheduled step raises for young employees in the judicial system and State law enforcement agencies.
- (5) A process for designating cases as complex business cases and assigning them to business court judges, including the possibility of providing that appeals from complex business cases go directly to the Supreme Court.
- (6) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Burr	Co-Chair	Rep. Glazier	
Rep. Davis	Co-Chair	Rep. Jackson	
Rep. Hurley		Rep. Jordan	
Rep. Boles		Rep. McNeil	
Rep. Daughtry		Rep. Richardson	
Rep. Dobson		Rep. Turner	
Rep. Faircloth		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

Funeral and Cemetery Regulation - The LRC Study Committee on Funeral and Cemetery Regulation shall study options for merging the Board of Funeral Services and the Cemetery Commission. In studying this issue, the committee shall examine the following:

- (1) The current charge and operational mission for each body as prescribed by statute.
- (2) Potential operational efficiencies achieved by a merger of the two bodies.
- (3) Potential economic benefits of a merger to the industry.

- (4) Potential economic benefits of a merger to consumers.
- (5) National consolidation trends relating to funeral service and cemetery regulation.
- (6) Any other issues pertinent to this study.

House Members		House Members	
Rep. Boles	Co-Chair	Rep. Ramsey	
Rep. Rayne Brown	Co-Chair	Rep. Schaffer	
Rep. Alexander		Rep. Tine	
Rep. Burr		Rep. Warren	
Rep. Charles Graham		Rep. Younts	
Rep. Murry		Rep. Tim Moore	Ex Officio

We will look forward to reviewing the Commission's report regarding the study results, as well as any recommended legislation, prior to dissolution of the Commission on January 15, 2015 pursuant to G.S. 120-30.11. Please let us know if we or our staff may be of assistance.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Sen. Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate



Rep. Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

CC: George Hall, Legislative Services Officer

