

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-199

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2
3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE A
5 STUDY OF NORTH CAROLINA'S UTILITY SAVINGS INITIATIVE FOR STATE
6 FACILITIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER LEGISLATION IS NEEDED TO
7 IMPLEMENT A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN ARKANSAS.

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9 WHEREAS, the cost of water, electricity, and natural gas services has
10 increased steadily over time and is expected to continue increasing; and

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12 WHEREAS, the cost of energy for state buildings was approximately
13 seventy-two million dollars (\$72,000,000) in 2005; and

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15 WHEREAS, since 2000, energy costs for state buildings have increased
16 annually an average of six and one-half percent (6.5%); and

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18 WHEREAS, state agencies and state-supported institutions of higher
19 education consume large amounts of water, electricity, and natural gas, and
20 therefore, must allocate a large portion of their budgets to pay for those
21 utility services; and

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23 WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that the markets for electricity and
24 natural gas are tight and that customers are vulnerable to service
25 interruptions and price volatility in periods of high demand; and

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27 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has found previously that there is an
28 overriding public interest in the conservation of energy; and

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30 WHEREAS, North Carolina implemented the Utility Savings Initiative for
31 State Facilities program that has demonstrated its state agencies and public
32 universities can reduce their energy consumption and energy costs by twenty
33 percent (20%) over a five-year period; and

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35 WHEREAS, at its recent annual meeting the Southern Legislative
36 Conference awarded its 2007 Innovation Award to North Carolina to recognize

1 the success of its Utility Savings Initiative for State Facilities,

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH
5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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7 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council to refer to the appropriate House
8 and Senate interim committees a study of the North Carolina Utility Savings
9 Initiative for State Facilities program to determine whether a similar
10 program is desirable in this state and whether legislation is needed to
11 implement a similar program in this state.

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13 Respectfully submitted,

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17 Senator Shane Broadway
18 District 22

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35 Filed Date: 09/05/2007 By: GLG/vjf