Levels of funding and funding sources:

SECTION 2.(j) The Mining and Energy Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, shall identify appropriate levels of funding and potential sources for that funding, including permit fees, bonds, taxes, and impact fees, necessary to (i) support local governments impacted by the industry and associated activities; (ii) address expected infrastructure impacts, including, but not limited to, repair of roads damaged by truck traffic and heavy equipment; (iii) cover any costs to the State for administering an oil and gas regulatory program, including remediation and reclamation of drilling sites when necessary due to abandonment or insolvency of an oil or gas operator or other responsible party; and (iv) any other issues that may need to be addressed in the Commission's determination. Any recommendation concerning local impact fees shall be formulated to require that all such fees be used exclusively to address infrastructure impacts from the drilling operation for which a fee is imposed. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, created under Section 6(a) of this act, and the Environmental Review Commission on or before October 1, 2013.

Local government role:

SECTION 2.(k) The Mining and Energy Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, shall examine the issue of local government regulation of oil and gas exploration and development activities, and the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for that purpose. The Commission shall formulate recommendations that maintain a uniform system for the management of such activities, which allow for reasonable local regulations, including required setbacks, infrastructure placement, and light and noise restrictions, that do not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting oil and gas exploration and development activities, and the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for that purpose, or otherwise conflict with State law. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, created under Section 6(a) of this act, and the Environmental Review Commission on or before October 1, 2013.

Compulsory pooling/mandatory unitization:

SECTION 2.(l) The Mining and Energy Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Consumer Protection Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice, shall study the State's current law on the issue of integration or compulsory pooling and other states' laws on the matter. The Department shall report its findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, created under Section 6(a) of this act, and the Environmental Review Commission on or before October 1, 2013.

Schedule for development of regulations:

Deadline for final regulations of the Mining and Energy Commission, the Environmental Management Commission, and the Commission for Public Health - October 1, 2014

Deadline for first report - January 1, 2013