

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 1324

Short Title: Future of Education Study.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Royall; Taft, Sherron, Plyler, Ward, Tally, and Basnight.

Referred to: Appropriations.

June 26, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE THE STUDY COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF
EDUCATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Whereas, the General Assembly in formulating its Budget for the 1989-91 Biennium has experienced great difficulty in balancing the needs of the people of this State with the resources available; and

Whereas, the Highway Program which has been proposed would raise approximately \$8.6 billion in new taxes; and

Whereas, the Merit Pay Plan put forth by the Governor would require additional revenue growing to a point in the future that would require in excess of \$1 billion per year in new funds; and

Whereas, the Basic Education Program now in its fifth year of implementation will require when fully funded in excess of \$800,000,000; and

Whereas, the new Teacher Salary Schedule and unfreezing the freeze will require substantial additional revenue; and

Whereas, various new and different alternatives including local flexibility and accountability models have been offered as possible solutions to improving the school systems of this State; and

Whereas, various pilot programs including Career Ladder, Lead Teacher and others have been in existence for sometime and have produced valuable data that should be reviewed before committing the State revenues to any programs; and

Whereas, the report produced for the General Assembly which reviewed the Career Ladder Plan stated that it appeared to have many good points, it also stated that

1 there was no measureable difference in student performance at that time and that the
2 program, if implemented, should be carefully studied before statewide implementation
3 and that a careful plan should be laid out for its implementation; and

4 Whereas, there appears to be no consensus now in this General Assembly or
5 in the State as to what initiatives should be funded in Education and where the resources
6 to carry out those initiatives can be found; and

7 Whereas, to fund all of the new requests which the Governor has
8 recommended to the General Assembly would require new taxes of the citizens of this
9 State well in excess of \$1 billion annually and would require additional tax increases in
10 the future, and this far exceeds the ability of the citizens of this State to pay for these
11 additional services; Now, therefore,

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 Section 1. The Study Commission on the Future of Education is created. The
14 Commission shall be located administratively within the Department of Public
15 Education. The Commission shall consist of 48 members appointed as follows:

- 16 (1) Three legislators, three educators, three representatives of business or
17 industry, and three citizens who are none of the above, appointed by
18 the Governor;
- 19 (2) Three legislators, three educators, three representatives of business or
20 industry, and three citizens who are none of the above, appointed by
21 the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- 22 (3) Three legislators, three educators, three representatives of business or
23 industry, and three citizens who are none of the above, appointed by
24 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
- 25 (4) Three legislators, three educators, three representatives of business or
26 industry, and three citizens who are none of the above, appointed by
27 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

28 Sec. 2. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall designate a
29 chairman of the Commission.

30 Sec. 3. The Commission shall:

- 31 (1) Study all recent education initiatives and goals, including the Basic
32 Education Program and the Career Development Pilot Program;
- 33 (2) Hold public hearings throughout the State on whether and how the
34 State should implement or continue to implement these initiatives and
35 goals; and
- 36 (3) Determine which of these initiatives and goals the State should
37 implement or continue to implement; how they should be implemented
38 to improve the quality of the State education system and to prepare
39 young people to be well-educated, productive citizens; and how they
40 should be funded.

41 Sec. 4. The Commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and
42 recommendations to the Governor, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and
43 the General Assembly on or before May 1, 1990. The Commission shall submit a final
44 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Superintendent of

1 Public Instruction, and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 1991. Upon filing
2 its final report, the Commission shall terminate.

3 Sec. 5. Members of the Commission who are legislators shall receive
4 subsistence and travel expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1. Members who are
5 officials or employees of the State shall be paid subsistence and travel allowances at the
6 rates set forth in G.S. 138-6. Other members of the Commission shall be paid per diem,
7 subsistence, and travel allowances at the rates established in G.S. 138-5.

8 Sec. 6. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant
9 services as it deems appropriate.

10 Sec. 7. When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Commission the
11 vacancy shall be filled by the same appointing officer who made the initial appointment.

12 Sec. 8. All State departments and agencies and local governments and their
13 subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or
14 available to them.

15 Sec. 9. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
16 Assembly the sum of \$100,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal year for the Study Commission on
17 the Future of Education.

18 Sec. 10. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.