

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 1555

Short Title: Public Higher Ed. Access.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Block.

Referred to: Higher Education.

June 6, 1990

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ENSURE ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FOR NORTH  
CAROLINIANS WITH PROVEN ABILITY TO LEARN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 116 of the General Assembly is amended by adding a new  
Article to read:

**“ARTICLE 5B.**

**“ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**“§ 116-174.9. Tuition, fees; guarantee; eligibility; administration.**

(a) The tuition and fees at any constituent institution of The University of North  
Carolina shall be paid by the State on behalf of any student who enrolls in such an  
institution to pursue a baccalaureate degree, who applies therefor, and who meets all of  
the following qualifications:

- (1) Is a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.
- (2) Has a parent or guardian who is a resident of North Carolina.
- (3) Has graduated from high school within the two years preceding the  
application with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5  
calculated on a 4.0 scale.

- (4) Has successfully completed 16 units of high school coursework (ninth  
grade level or higher), which constitutes a core curriculum and meets  
standards for admission to the desired college or university. The core  
curriculum shall be defined as follows:

- a. Four course units in college preparatory English,

- 1                    b. Three course units in mathematics, including geometry, Algebra  
2                    I, and II,
- 3                    c. Three course units in science, including at least one unit in life  
4                    science or biology, at least one unit in physical science, and at  
5                    least one laboratory course.
- 6                    d. Two course units in social studies, including one in government  
7                    and economics and one in United States history,
- 8                    e. Two course units in a single foreign language,
- 9                    f. Two course units elected from sub-subdivisions a. through e. of  
10                   this subdivision.
- 11                   (5) Has a composite score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test of at least 900.
- 12                   (6) Has no criminal record.
- 13                   (7) Is found to be in financial need.
- 14                   (b) In each academic year, a constituent institution may provide payment of  
15 tuition and fees as provided in this Article for students who meet at least two of the  
16 requirements enumerated in subdivisions (3) through (5) of subsection (a) of this section  
17 and fail to meet eligibility for the third by an amount equal to ten percent (10%) or less.  
18 The total number of these students shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total  
19 number of students admitted the previous year who received tuition and fees as  
20 provided in this Article.
- 21                   (c) To continue to receive State payment of tuition and fees once enrolled in a  
22 constituent institution, a student shall meet all of the following:
- 23                   (1) Make steady academic progress toward a degree, earning not less than  
24 the minimum number of hours of credit required for full time standing  
25 in each academic period requiring this enrollment.
- 26                   (2) Maintain full time enrollment standing for not less than two semesters  
27 or three quarters in any academic year.
- 28                   (3) Rank in the upper fifty percent (50%) of the total number of his  
29 classmates in the college in which he is enrolled or the division, if he is  
30 not enrolled in a college, within the constituent institution.
- 31                   (4) Have no criminal record.
- 32                   (d) The provisions of this Article shall be administered by the State Education  
33 Assistance Authority, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of The University of  
34 North Carolina, or its successor. The State Education Assistance Authority, in  
35 cooperation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall  
36 adopt rules to administer this Article. These rules shall include:
- 37                   (1) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the  
38 assistance provided pursuant to this section early enough in their  
39 schooling that a salutary motivational effect is possible.
- 40                   (2) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other  
41 program audit procedures, and other matters related to efficient  
42 operation.
- 43                   (e) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

1           (1)   The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has one dependent child  
2                   under the age of 21 and the four-year average adjusted gross income of  
3                   the family is less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

4           (2)   The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has two dependent  
5                   children under the age of 21 and the four-year average annual adjusted  
6                   gross income of the family is less than thirty-five thousand dollars  
7                   (\$35,000).

8           (3)   The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has three or more  
9                   dependent children under the age of 21 and the four-year average  
10                  annual adjusted gross income of the family is less than forty thousand  
11                  dollars (\$40,000).

12                   The four-year average annual adjusted gross income of the family  
13                   shall be verified by Internal Revenue Service returns.

14       (f)   An appropriation of funds may annually be made to the Board of Governors  
15           sufficient to cover, in addition to any other available funds, the costs of tuition and fees  
16           required to be paid, both initial and continuing, for the coming academic year. All these  
17           payments shall be made directly to the institution to which the tuition is due after notice  
18           to the institution that the State shall pay the tuition of a student and after notice from the  
19           institution that the student has actually enrolled.

20       (g)   The Board of Governors may seek, accept, and expend funds from any  
21           source, including private business, industry, foundations, and other groups as well as  
22           any federal or other governmental funding available for this purpose.

23       (h)   No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this Article in an amount greater  
24           than the tuition and fees charged by the institution. The student shall apply for a federal  
25           grant prior to receiving State funds."

26           Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Education  
27 Assistance Authority the sum of \$100,000 for the 1990-91 fiscal year to implement this  
28 act.

29           Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1990, and applies to payments  
30 made for academic years beginning with the 1991-92 academic year.