

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

**H**

**1**

HOUSE BILL 1131

Short Title: Literacy Grant Study.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Gottovi; Colton, Redwine, and Russell.

---

Referred to: Business and Labor.

---

April 19, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON WORK FORCE  
2 PREPAREDNESS TO STUDY THE NEED FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR STATE  
3 LITERACY PROGRAMS.  
4

5 Whereas, the 1990 census shows that approximately five hundred forty  
6 thousand North Carolinians over the age of 25 have only an elementary school  
7 education; and

8 Whereas, this level of education is far below the level of twelve to fourteen  
9 years of education needed to function adequately in today's society; and

10 Whereas, the children of parents with low reading skills are destined to repeat  
11 the cycle of illiteracy unless they and their parents receive intensive literacy tutoring;  
12 and

13 Whereas, volunteer literacy councils across the State have worked faithfully  
14 as a partner of adult basic education and the education system of North Carolina for  
15 over 25 years; moreover, during this time, these councils have provided literacy services  
16 at their own expense, having received no public monies and having charged no fees for  
17 the services; and

18 Whereas, the need for program services continues to increase, but little  
19 money is available for program administration; this dearth of administrative support is  
20 forcing volunteer literacy programs to spend a larger amount of time and energy in  
21 fund-raising to keep up with administrative costs, thus having less time and energy to  
22 spend on recruitment of tutors and students and on facilitating student literacy; and

23 Whereas, limited federal funds have been approved for a North Carolina  
24 Literacy Resource Center which will be established under the jurisdiction of the

1 Governor's Commission on Work Force Preparedness. The Center will coordinate  
2 literacy efforts within the State and will provide sorely needed resources and a link  
3 between the new National Institute for Literacy and service providers; and

4         Whereas a strong State literacy office is needed to: (i) support the volunteer  
5 literacy work now in progress, (ii) begin volunteer literacy work in the 35 North  
6 Carolina counties that do not have such programs, (iii) improve provider training, and  
7 (iv) launch new projects statewide that will greatly enhance the effectiveness of adult  
8 literacy efforts; and

9         Whereas, to accomplish these tasks will require a consistent and stable  
10 funding base; Now, therefore,

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12         Section 1. The Commission on Work Force Preparedness shall study the  
13 efficacy of volunteer based community literacy programs and the need for establishing a  
14 State-funded grant program the purpose of which would be to provide funds to  
15 nonprofit, community-based adult literacy organizations. Grant funds would be used to  
16 assist these organizations in the development and implementation of adult literacy  
17 programs, to enable the organizations to provide services to more under-educated adults  
18 than are now being served, and for other purposes designed to improve the literacy rate  
19 in North Carolina.

20         Sec. 2. The Governor shall ensure the involvement of representatives from  
21 community-based literacy programs in and for the duration of the Commission's study  
22 authorized under Section 1 of this act.

23         Sec. 3. The Commission on Work Force Preparedness shall report its findings  
24 and recommendations pursuant to the study authorized under Section 1 of this act to the  
25 General Assembly not later than May 1, 1994.