

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 999

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Holt; Cummings, Easterling, Jeffus, and J. Preston.

Referred to: Education.

April 19, 1993

A BILL TO* BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REEVALUATE
2 THE GRADUATION RULES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND
3 TO SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF OLD RULES PENDING THE
4 REEVALUATION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

7 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and
8 descriptions similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of
9 study and it shall provide:

- 10 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special
11 needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the
12 learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with
13 discipline and emotional problems;
- 14 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
- 15 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;
- 16 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the
17 mastery of competencies, including standards for ~~graduation;~~
18 graduation, that take into account children with special needs and that,
19 in particular, include appropriate modifications;
- 20 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 21 (6) Required support programs;
- 22 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 23 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;

- 1 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
2 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
3 (11) Facilities standards; and
4 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

5 Sec. 2. The State Board of Education shall authorize an independently
6 conducted study, to include recommendations of graduation standards and children with
7 special needs, with a particular focus on appropriate modifications of these standards for
8 these children. The study shall be conducted within existing resources of the State
9 Board of Education and shall include a review and evaluation of other states' graduation
10 standards and how they are modified for these children, the appropriateness of an
11 alternative diploma for these children, the appropriateness of course substitutions or
12 waivers for these children, the need for raised expectations for these children in
13 conjunction with alternative teaching methods, the admissions policies at the constituent
14 institutions of The University of North Carolina as they apply to these students, and any
15 other issue the State Board of Education considers appropriate. The study shall be
16 completed and a written report filed with the State Board of Education no later than
17 December 15, 1993. Upon its receipt of the report, the State Board of Education shall
18 file a copy with the chair of the Commission on Children with Special Needs and the
19 chairs of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

20 Sec. 3. The effective date of any rule adopted by the State Board of
21 Education in the two years immediately preceding December 15, 1993, that established
22 additional graduation standards is suspended in any application to children identified as
23 learning disabled. The State Board of Education shall establish a new effective date for
24 the rules it decides to keep or modify after it completes the reevaluation required by
25 Section 4 of this act.

26 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,
27 and based on its recommendations, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate any
28 rules it established within the two years immediately preceding December 15, 1993, that
29 established or affected graduation requirements, with a particular focus on the Algebra I
30 requirement. The State Board of Education shall complete its reevaluation and establish
31 any modifications to these rules on or before March 15, 1994. Upon completion of this
32 process, the State Board of Education shall file a written report with the chair of the
33 Commission on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative
34 Education Oversight Committee no later than April 1, 1994.

35 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.