

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

S

1

SENATE BILL 381

Short Title: GPAC/Stabilize School Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Martin of Guilford.

Referred to: Government Performance Audit.

February 24, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE TO STABILIZE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS FOR THREE YEARS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-238.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-238.1. Performance-based Accountability Program; development and implementation by State Board.

The General Assembly believes that all children can learn. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the mission of the public school community is to challenge with high expectations each child to learn, to achieve, and to fulfill his or her potential. With that mission as its guide, the State Board of Education shall develop and implement a Performance-based Accountability Program. The primary goal of the Program shall be to improve student performance. The State Board of Education shall adopt:

- (1) Procedures and guidelines through which, beginning with the 1990-91 fiscal year, local school administrative units may participate in the Program;
(2) Guidelines for developing local school improvement plans with three-year student performance goals and annual milestones to measure progress in meeting those goals; and
(3) A set of student performance indicators for measuring and assessing student performance in the participating local school administrative

1 units. These indicators may include attendance rates, dropout rates,
2 test scores, parent involvement, and post-secondary outcomes.

3 Because local school administrative units need time to adapt to changes in the
4 Performance-based Accountability Program, the General Assembly urges the State
5 Board of Education to minimize departmental changes to the Performance-based
6 Accountability Program until July 1, 1995. It is the intent of the General Assembly also
7 to minimize legislative changes to the Performance-based Accountability Program until
8 July 1, 1995."

9 Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-12(9) reads as rewritten:

10 "(9) Miscellaneous Powers and Duties. – All the powers and duties
11 exercised by the State Board of Education shall be in conformity with
12 the Constitution and subject to such laws as may be enacted from time
13 to time by the General Assembly. Among such duties are:

14 a. To certify and regulate the grade and salary of teachers and
15 other school employees.

16 b. To adopt and supply textbooks.

17 c. To adopt rules requiring all local boards of education to
18 implement the Basic Education Program on an incremental
19 basis within funds appropriated for that purpose by the General
20 Assembly and by units of local government. Beginning with
21 the 1991-92 school year, the rules shall require each local
22 school administrative unit to implement fully the standard
23 course of study in every school in the State in accordance with
24 the Basic Education Program so that every student in the State
25 shall have equal access to the curriculum as provided in the
26 Basic Education Program and the standard course of study.

27 The Board shall establish benchmarks by which to measure
28 the progress that each local board of education has made in
29 implementing the Basic Education Program. The Board shall
30 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
31 and to the General Assembly by December 31, 1991, and by
32 February 1 of each subsequent year on each local board's
33 progress in implementing the Basic Education Program,
34 including the use of State and local funds for the Basic
35 Education Program.

36 The Board shall develop a State accreditation program that
37 meets or exceeds the standards and requirements of the Basic
38 Education Program. The Board shall require each local school
39 administrative unit to comply with the State accreditation
40 program to the extent that funds have been made available to
41 the local school administrative unit for implementation of the
42 Basic Education Program. Because local school administrative
43 units need time to adapt to changes in the State accreditation
44 program, the General Assembly urges the State Board of

1 Education to minimize departmental changes to the
2 Performance-based Accountability Program until July 1, 1995.
3 It is the intent of the General Assembly also to minimize
4 legislative changes to the State accreditation program until July
5 1, 1995.

6 The Board shall use the State accreditation program to
7 monitor the implementation of the Basic Education Program.

8 c1. To issue an annual 'report card' for the State and for each local
9 school administrative unit, assessing each unit's efforts to
10 improve student performance and taking into account progress
11 over the previous years' level of performance and the State's
12 performance in comparison with other states. This assessment
13 shall take into account demographic, economic, and other
14 factors that have been shown to affect student performance.
15 Because local school administrative units need time to adapt to
16 changes in the Performance-based Accountability Program, the
17 General Assembly urges the State Board of Education to
18 minimize departmental changes to the annual report card until
19 July 1, 1995. It is the intent of the General Assembly also to
20 minimize legislative changes to the annual report card until July
21 1, 1995.

22 c2. To develop management accountability indicators to measure
23 the efficiency and appropriate use of staff in each school and at
24 the administrative office. Staff development for school
25 administrators shall be a high priority of the Department of
26 Public Instruction.

27 c3. To develop a system of school building improvement reports
28 for each school building. The purpose of school building
29 improvement reports is to measure improvement in student
30 performance at each school building from year to year, not to
31 compare school buildings. The Board may consider for
32 inclusion in the building reports the following criteria: test
33 scores, the success of graduating students in postsecondary
34 institutions, attendance, graduation and dropout rates, the
35 numbers of children enrolled in free lunch or Chapter 1
36 programs, the education level of the parents of children enrolled
37 in the school, the teaching experience of the school staff, and
38 whether the building has been successful in meeting the goals
39 of the building and systemwide plans developed in accordance
40 with G.S. 115C-238.1 through G.S. 115C-238.6. Local school
41 administrative units shall produce school building improvement
42 reports by March 15, 1995, and annually thereafter. Each report
43 shall be based on building-level data for the prior school year.

1 d. To formulate rules and regulations for the enforcement of the
2 compulsory attendance law.

3 e. To manage and operate a system of insurance for public school
4 property, as provided in Article 38 of this Chapter.

5 In making substantial policy changes in administration,
6 curriculum, or programs the Board should conduct hearings
7 throughout the regions of the State, whenever feasible, in order
8 that the public may be heard regarding these matters."

9 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.