

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1019

Short Title: Rigorous Academic Content Standards.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Preston; Adams, Arnold, Black, Bowie, Brawley, Cansler, Capps, Clary, Cunningham, Davis, Dickson, Fitch, Grady, Gulley, Hall, Hiatt, Jarrell, Kinney, McMahan, Moore, Morris, Neely, Nichols, Rayfield, Reynolds, Russell, Sexton, Sherrill, Shubert, Starnes, Wainwright, Warner, Watson, C. Wilson, and G. Wilson.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 21, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT
2 RIGOROUS AND FOCUSED CONTENT STANDARDS IN READING,
3 WRITING, MATH, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES, AND TO MAKE AN
4 APPROPRIATION.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding the following new
8 subdivision to read:

9 "(9b) Power to Develop Content Standards. – The Board shall develop a
10 comprehensive plan to revise content standards and the standard
11 course of study in the core academic areas of reading, writing,
12 mathematics, science, and social studies. The Board shall involve and
13 survey a representative sample of parents, teachers, and the public to
14 help determine academic content standard priorities and usefulness of
15 the content standards. A full review of available and relevant
16 academic content standards that are rigorous, specific, sequenced,
17 clear, focused, and measurable, whenever possible, shall be a part of
18 the process of the development of content standards. The content
19 standards developed in the core academic areas shall (i) reflect high
20 expectations for students and quality; (ii) be clearly grounded in the

1 content of each academic area; (iii) be defined grade-by-grade and
2 course-by- course; (iv) be understandable to parents and teachers; (v)
3 be developed in full recognition of the time available to teach the core
4 academic areas at each grade level; and (vi) be measurable, whenever
5 possible, in a reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability
6 purposes.

7 The Board also shall develop a process to align State programs and
8 support materials with the core academic content standards. Alignment
9 shall include revising textbooks, support materials, State tests, teacher
10 and school administrator preparation, and ongoing professional
11 development programs to be compatible with content standards. High
12 school course content standards shall include alignment with
13 coursework required for admission to constituent institutions of The
14 University of North Carolina and end-of-course testing. This
15 alignment shall include a plan to develop and implement end-of-course
16 tests for all courses required for admission to these institutions. The
17 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall work in
18 collaboration with the State Board of Education to insure that teacher
19 and school administrator programs, ongoing professional development
20 and other university activity in the State's public schools align with the
21 State Board's priorities. Support materials for academic content
22 standards, including teacher and parent guides to the content standards,
23 shall be developed and made available to teachers and parents."

24 Section 2. The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative
25 Education Oversight Committee by April 15, 1998, on the implementation of this act,
26 including the Board's comprehensive plan. The Board, in its report, may recommend
27 any necessary statutory changes.

28 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
29 Education two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year to
30 implement this act.

31 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.