

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

**SESSION LAW 2003-251
HOUSE BILL 601**

**AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE EARLY ENTRY OF MOTIVATED STUDENTS INTO
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAMS.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
"§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.

The general supervision and administration of the free public school system shall be vested in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall establish policy for the system of free public schools, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly. The powers and duties of the State Board of Education are defined as follows:

...
(32) Duty to encourage early entry of motivated students into four-year college programs. – The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Education Cabinet, shall work with local school administrative units, the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, local community colleges, and private colleges and universities to (i) encourage early entry of motivated students into four-year college programs and to (ii) ensure that there are opportunities at four-year institutions for academically talented high school students to get an early start on college coursework, either at nearby institutions or through distance learning.

The State Board of Education shall also adopt policies directing school guidance counselors to make ninth grade students aware of the potential to complete the high school courses required for college entry in a three-year period."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 16th day of June, 2003.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

s/ Richard T. Morgan
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved 12:38 p.m. this 26th day of June, 2003