

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 956*

Short Title: Reduced Tuition/UNC Employees.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Lucas.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE EXISTING TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM AND TO
2 PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION TO THE TWELVE-MONTH RESIDENCY
3 REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
4 EMPLOYEES AND THEIR CHILDREN.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 116-143 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 116-143. State-supported institutions of higher education required to charge**
9 **tuition and fees.**

10 (a) The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina shall fix the
11 tuition and fees, not inconsistent with actions of the General Assembly, at the
12 institutions enumerated in G.S. 116-4 in such amount or amounts as it may deem best,
13 taking into consideration the nature of each institution and program of study and the
14 cost of equipment and maintenance; and each institution shall charge and collect from
15 each student, at the beginning of each semester or quarter, tuition, fees, and an amount
16 sufficient to pay other expenses for the term.

17 (b) In the event that said students are unable to pay the cost of tuition and
18 required academic fees as the same may become due, in cash, the said several boards of
19 trustees are hereby authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to accept the
20 obligation of the student or students together with such collateral or security as they
21 may deem necessary and proper, it being the purpose of this Article that all students in
22 State institutions of higher learning shall be required to pay tuition, and that free tuition
23 is hereby abolished.

24 (c) Inasmuch as the giving of tuition and fee waivers, or especially reduced rates,
25 represent in effect a variety of scholarship awards, the said practice is hereby prohibited
26 except when expressly authorized by statute or by the Board of Governors of the
27 University of North Carolina; and, furthermore, it is hereby directed and required that
28 all budgeted funds expended for scholarships of any type must be clearly identified in
29 budget reports.

1 (d) Notwithstanding the above provision relating to the abolition of free tuition,
2 the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina may, in its ~~discretion,~~
3 discretion, do the following:

4 (1) ~~provide~~ Provide regulations under which a full-time faculty member
5 of the rank of full-time instructor or above, and any full-time staff
6 member of the University of North Carolina may during the period of
7 normal employment enroll for not more than ~~one course~~ three courses
8 ~~per semester-~~ academic year in the University of North Carolina free of
9 charge for tuition, provided such enrollment does not interfere with
10 normal employment obligations and further provided that such
11 enrollments are not counted for the purpose of receiving general fund
12 appropriations.

13 (2) Provide regulations under which the spouse and one or more
14 dependent children of a full-time faculty member or staff member of
15 The University of North Carolina may have the spouse's or dependent
16 children's tuition reduced by twenty-five percent (25%) so long as the
17 employee remains employed full-time at The University of North
18 Carolina."

19 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 116-143.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to
20 read:

21 "(m) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a person who is a full-time
22 employee of The University of North Carolina, or is the spouse or dependent child of a
23 full-time employee of The University of North Carolina, and who is a legal resident of
24 North Carolina, qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes without having maintained
25 that legal residence for at least 12 months immediately prior to his or her classification
26 as a resident for tuition purposes."

27 **SECTION 3.** The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
28 and the State Board of Community Colleges shall study the feasibility of a tuition
29 waiver exchange program under which full-time employees of The University of North
30 Carolina would be allowed to take a specified number of courses at a community
31 college without paying tuition, and full-time employees of a community college would
32 be allowed to take a specified number of courses at The University of North Carolina
33 without paying tuition. The Boards shall report the results of this study to the Joint
34 Legislative Education Oversight Committee by April 1, 2006.

35 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.