

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1505

Short Title: Legislative Study of School Testing Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hurley, Yongue (Primary Sponsors); Barnhart, Blackwood, Brown, Cleveland, Cotham, Glazier, Harrison, Hilton, Howard, Justice, Lewis, McGee, Moore, Neumann, Pate, Samuelson, Stam, Starnes, Steen, Thomas, Tillis, Wainwright, Walend, and Weiss.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 17, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) There is created the Joint Legislative Study Committee on the School Testing Program. The Committee shall consist of six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and six members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint a cochair, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a cochair for the Committee. The Committee may meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the same appointing authority as made the initial appointment.

The Committee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Committee may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

Subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Committee may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Committee in its work. The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors of Clerks shall assign clerical support staff to the Committee, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee. Members of the Committee shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

1 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Committee shall appoint an advisory panel comprised
2 of teachers, principals, local superintendents, members of local boards of education,
3 students, parents of public school students, and other persons to assist it in carrying out
4 its duties.

5 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Committee shall study issues related to the public
6 school testing program. In the course of the study the Committee shall consider the
7 amount of instructional time that is used to prepare for tests, the effect "teaching to the
8 test" has on instruction, the amount of stress the testing program induces in students,
9 parents, teachers, and school administrators, and the validity and usefulness of test
10 results.

11 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Committee shall submit a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, including any legislative recommendations, to the 2008 Regular
13 Session of the 2007 General Assembly. The Committee shall terminate upon filing its
14 report.

15 **SECTION 1.(e)** Of the funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the
16 Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the expenses of the Committee
17 established by this section.

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