

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE BILL 401*

Short Title: Pilot/Sports for Students w/ Disabilities. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Barringer, Tillman, Woodard (Primary Sponsors); Barefoot, D. Davis, Hise, Lee, Rabin, Robinson, and Smith-Ingram.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 25, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO USE
2 FUNDS TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM ON INTEGRATED
3 COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTED SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH
4 DISABILITIES.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction or
8 State Aid for Public Schools for the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, the Department may use up to
9 three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) each fiscal year to develop and implement a pilot
10 program for an integrated community-based adapted sports program for students with
11 disabilities in grades kindergarten through 12. If the Department uses funds for this purpose,
12 the pilot program shall be consistent with the "Dear Colleague" letter addressing equal access
13 to extracurricular athletics for students with disabilities released by the U.S. Department of
14 Education, Office for Civil Rights, on January 25, 2013. The pilot program shall also include
15 specific strategies to overcome barriers to the participation of students with disabilities in
16 extracurricular athletics and incorporate a philosophy of personal empowerment for those
17 students. The pilot program may be conducted in one or more local school administrative units
18 and provide for collaboration with universities and community colleges and other community
19 organizations to achieve the purposes of the program.

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

