

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 904*
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/6/93

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 12, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER
2 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHEN IT ADOPTS RULES SETTING
3 GRADUATION STANDARDS, TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
4 THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO STUDY HIGH SCHOOL
5 GRADUATION STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AND
6 TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SUSPEND THE
7 APPLICATION OF ITS RULE REQUIRING ALGEBRA I FOR A HIGH
8 SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS LEARNING DISABLED
9 PENDING ITS REEVALUATION OF GRADUATION STANDARDS FOR
10 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.
11

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

14 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and
15 descriptions similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of
16 study and it shall provide:

- 17 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special
18 needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the
19 learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with
20 discipline and emotional problems;
21 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
22 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;

- 1 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the
2 mastery of competencies, including standards for ~~graduation;~~
3 graduation, that take into account children with special needs and, in
4 particular, include appropriate modifications;
5 (5) A program of remedial education;
6 (6) Required support programs;
7 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
8 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
9 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
10 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
11 (11) Facilities standards; and
12 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

13 Sec. 2. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall
14 direct the Clinical Center for Study of Development and Learning in the School of
15 Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study, and make
16 recommendations concerning graduation standards for children with special needs with
17 a particular focus on appropriate modifications of these standards for these children.
18 The study shall be conducted within existing resources of the Board of Governors and
19 shall include a review and evaluation of other states' graduation standards and how they
20 are modified for these children, the appropriateness of an alternative diploma for these
21 children, the appropriateness of course substitutions or waivers for these children, the
22 need for raised expectations for these children in conjunction with alternative teaching
23 methods, the admissions policies at the constituent institutions of The University of
24 North Carolina as they apply to these students, and any other issue the Clinical Center
25 for Study of Development and Learning considers appropriate. The study shall be
26 completed and a written report filed with the Board of Governors and the State Board of
27 Education no later than December 15, 1993. Upon its receipt of the report, the State
28 Board of Education shall file a copy with the chair of the Commission on Children with
29 Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

30 Sec. 3. The effective date of the rule adopted by the State Board of Education
31 in 1991 that established Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma is hereby
32 suspended in its application to any student who is identified as learning disabled and
33 whose individualized education program states that the student's learning disability
34 requires course substitutions or other modifications in the area of mathematics. The
35 State Board of Education may establish a new effective date after it completes its
36 reevaluation required by Section 4 of this act.

37 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,
38 and based on its recommendations, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate its rule
39 that established Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma. The State Board
40 of Education shall complete its reevaluation and establish any modifications to its rules
41 on or before March 15, 1994. Upon completion of this process, the State Board of
42 Education shall file a written report with the chair of the Commission on Children with
43 Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no
44 later than April 1, 1994.

1 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.