

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 863*

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Gunter; Perdue, Gulley, Lee, Smith, Warren, Forrester, Speed, and Marshall.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

April 14, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHEN IT ADOPTS RULES SETTING GRADUATION STANDARDS, AND TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF ANY GRADUATION STANDARDS ADOPTED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS UNTIL IT REEVALUATES THE RULES BASED ON A STUDY OF GRADUATION STANDARDS AND THESE CHILDREN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

- (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with discipline and emotional problems;
(2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
(3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;
(4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the mastery of competencies, including standards for graduation; graduation, that take into account children with special needs and, in particular, include appropriate modifications;

- 1 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 2 (6) Required support programs;
- 3 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 4 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
- 5 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
- 6 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
- 7 (11) Facilities standards; and
- 8 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

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

26 Sec. 3. The effective date of any rule adopted by the State Board of
27 Education in the past two years that established additional graduation standards is
28 hereby suspended in its application to children identified as learning disabled. The State
29 Board of Education may establish a new effective date after it completes its reevaluation
30 required by Section 4 of this act.

31 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,
32 and based on its recommendations, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate any
33 rules it established within the two years before December 15, 1993, that established or
34 affected graduation requirements, with a particular focus on the Algebra I requirement.
35 The State Board of Education shall complete its reevaluation and establish any
36 modifications to these rules on or before March 15, 1994. Upon completion of this
37 process, the State Board of Education shall file a written report with the chair of the
38 Commission on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative
39 Education Oversight Committee no later than April 1, 1994.

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