

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE BILL 971

Short Title: Legislative Study of Alternative Schools. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lucas, Bryant (Primary Sponsors); M. Alexander, Earle, Faison, Glazier, Hughes, Rapp, and Wainwright.

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

April 2, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT
3 COMMITTEE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS.

4 Whereas, an average of one in 10 North Carolina students receives a short-term
5 out-of-school suspension each year; and

6 Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, there were a total of 308,010
7 short-term suspensions resulting in a loss of between 924,030 and 1,540,050 instructional days;
8 and

9 Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, a disproportionate number of
10 short-term out-of-school suspensions were received by African-American, American Indian,
11 ninth graders, and special education students; and

12 Whereas, similar patterns are seen with long-term suspensions, which are
13 suspensions of 11 days or more; and

14 Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, there were a total of 4,682 long-term
15 suspensions resulting in more than 50,000 days of lost instructional time; and

16 Whereas, young people who are suspended from school are at an increased risk of
17 poor academic performance, being less connected to the school setting, dropping out of school
18 and becoming involved in the juvenile justice, criminal justice, and mental health systems; and

19 Whereas, encouraging connectedness to school and focusing on those at risk of
20 being suspended or expelled would undoubtedly improve the outcomes for these children;

21 Now, therefore,

22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study the
24 number of alternative schools that currently exist in North Carolina and how effective those
25 schools are in helping at-risk students reach academic success. The Committee shall report the
26 results of this study to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly.

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

