

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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SENATE BILL 437

Short Title: NC Completes College/Competitive Workforce. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Ballard (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 2, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS POLICY CHANGES DESIGNED TO CREATE AN
2 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT GOAL FOR THE STATE; TO IMPROVE STUDENT
3 OUTCOMES, INCLUDING REDUCING TIME TO DEGREE AT PUBLIC
4 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR
5 AND VALUE OF NONDEGREE WORKFORCE CERTIFICATIONS.
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7 Whereas, the State of North Carolina is one of five states in the country that do not
8 have a shared postsecondary attainment goal; and

9 Whereas, the My Future NC Commission, a statewide group of business, education,
10 and government leaders, recently studied North Carolina's evolving workforce needs and the
11 alignment between future demands and trends in educational attainment; and

12 Whereas, based on that study, the My Future NC Commission developed an
13 educational attainment goal that will ensure North Carolina remains economically competitive
14 now and into the future; and

15 Whereas, to make progress towards that goal, the North Carolina higher education
16 community must improve student outcomes, reduce the time to graduation, and create
17 opportunities that meet the needs of today's students; and

18 Whereas, increasing on-time graduation rates at institutions of higher education and
19 expanding access to high-quality workforce training places more graduates into the workforce
20 more quickly, reduces student debt, and increases the supply of skilled workers in North Carolina,
21 making the State more attractive to businesses to start, expand, or relocate; and

22 Whereas, completing summer courses has a positive effect on retention and
23 graduation rates among both community college and four-year college students; and

24 Whereas, postsecondary education includes workforce certifications and industry
25 credentials, allowing citizens, regardless of age, to train or retrain for high-demand careers that
26 are essential to providing the State's skilled workforce; Now, therefore,
27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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29 **PART I. ADOPT THE ATTAINMENT GOAL DEVELOPED BY THE MY FUTURE NC**
30 **COMMISSION AND SUPPORTED BY THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**
31 **CREDENTIALS COMMISSION**

32 **SECTION 1.1.(a)** State postsecondary attainment goal. – G.S. 116C-1 through
33 G.S. 116C-5 are designated as Article 1 of Chapter 116C of the General Statutes, which is entitled
34 "Education Cabinet."

35 **SECTION 1.1.(b)** Chapter 116C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
36 Article to read:



1 "Article 2.

2 "North Carolina Postsecondary Attainment Goal.

3 "**§ 116C-10. North Carolina postsecondary attainment goal.**

4 (a) Findings. – The General Assembly finds it necessary to set a goal for postsecondary
5 attainment for North Carolina residents to ensure that the State remains economically competitive
6 now and into the future.

7 (b) Postsecondary Attainment Goal. – The State shall make significant efforts to increase
8 access to learning and improve the education of more North Carolinians so that, by the year 2030,
9 2,000,000 residents between the ages of 25 and 44 will have completed a high-quality credential
10 or postsecondary degree.

11 (c) Rights Not Created. – The attainment goal established in this section is not to the
12 exclusion of any other goals and does not confer a right or create a claim for any person."

13 **SECTION 1.2.(a)** Establish Task Force on Postsecondary Attainment. – There is
14 created the Joint Legislative Task Force on Postsecondary Attainment (Task Force).

15 **SECTION 1.2.(b)** The Task Force shall consist of nine members of the Senate
16 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and nine members of the House of
17 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President Pro
18 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint a
19 cochair of the Task Force from among its membership. These appointments shall be made no
20 later than September 1, 2019.

21 **SECTION 1.2.(c)** In consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, the
22 Community Colleges System Office, and The University of North Carolina System Office, the
23 Task Force shall create an inventory of existing education programs and policies to assess the
24 effectiveness of those programs and policies in order to determine how to facilitate the progress
25 of the State in reaching the postsecondary attainment goal set forth in G.S. 116C-10. As a part of
26 this study, the Task Force shall consider the work and recommendations of the My Future NC
27 Commission and the Postsecondary Education Credentials Commission and any other issues the
28 Task Force considers relevant.

29 **SECTION 1.2.(d)** The Task Force shall meet upon the call of its cochairs. A quorum
30 of the Task Force is a majority of its members. No action may be taken except by a majority vote
31 at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official
32 duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through
33 G.S. 120-19.4. The Task Force may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services, as
34 provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Task Force hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a
35 State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services. Members
36 of the Task Force shall receive per diem, subsistence and travel allowance, as provided in
37 G.S. 120-3.1. The expenses of the Task Force shall be considered expenses incurred for the joint
38 operation of the General Assembly.

39 **SECTION 1.2.(e)** The Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and
40 clerical staff to assist the Task Force in its work. The Director of Legislative Assistants of the
41 House of Representatives and the Director of Legislative Assistants of the Senate shall assign
42 clerical support to the Task Force.

43 **SECTION 1.2.(f)** Meetings of the Task Force shall begin no later than October 1,
44 2019. The Task Force shall submit an interim report by March 1, 2020, and a final report by
45 March 1, 2022, on the results of its study, including proposed legislation, to the Joint Legislative
46 Education Oversight Committee. The Task Force shall terminate on March 1, 2022, or upon the
47 filing of its final report, whichever comes first.

48 **SECTION 1.3.** This part is effective the date this act becomes law.

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50 **PART II. ENHANCED STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH AFFORDABLE EDUCATION**
51 **YEAR-ROUND**

1 **SECTION 2.1.** Enrollment funds for summer courses. – There is appropriated from
2 the General Fund to the reserve account in the Office of State Budget and Management for
3 enrollment adjustments for The University of North Carolina the sum of forty-three million five
4 hundred seventy-eight thousand two hundred twenty-three dollars (\$43,578,223) in additional
5 recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to increase graduation rates and reduce time to
6 degree by expanding the number of and enrollment in on-campus undergraduate summer courses
7 offered on-campus at constituent institutions. For subsequent fiscal years, the annual enrollment
8 growth request from The University of North Carolina shall reflect incremental changes in the
9 actual credit hours completed in the fall, spring, and summer terms.

10 **SECTION 2.2.** Scholarships for summer courses. – There is appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of ten
12 million dollars (\$10,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allocate to the
13 State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for the purpose of providing summer
14 scholarships to enable and encourage students enrolled in a constituent institution of The
15 University of North Carolina or a North Carolina community college to enroll in summer courses.
16 The Authority shall give priority in the award of scholarships to students (i) with financial need
17 and (ii) who can use summer courses to earn 30 credits in the academic year or accelerate their
18 path to a degree. The Board of Governors and the President of The University of North Carolina
19 shall establish guidance for the Authority for the award of the scholarships for students enrolled
20 in constituent institutions. The State Board of Community Colleges and the President of the
21 Community College System shall establish guidance for the Authority on the award of the
22 scholarships for students enrolled in community colleges. The Authority shall adopt any
23 necessary rules for administration of the scholarships. The funds appropriated pursuant to this
24 section for each fiscal year shall be provided for scholarships as follows:

- 25 (1) The sum of up to seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) in recurring funds shall
26 be used to provide scholarships to students enrolled in constituent institutions.
- 27 (2) The sum of up to three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in recurring funds shall
28 be used to provide scholarships to students enrolled in community colleges.

29 **SECTION 2.3.** Section 2.2 of this part applies beginning with the 2020 summer
30 term.

31 32 **PART III. ENHANCED PATHWAYS FOR NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY** 33 **COLLEGE SYSTEM GRADUATES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL**

34 **SECTION 3.1.** Scholarships for community college transfer students. – There is
35 appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North
36 Carolina the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal
37 year to allocate to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) to establish a scholarship
38 program for students who receive an eligible college transfer associate degree from a North
39 Carolina community college and transfer to a constituent institution of The University of North
40 Carolina within 12 months of receiving the degree. For purposes of the section, an "eligible
41 college transfer associate degree" is a degree covered by an articulation agreement entered into
42 between the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of
43 Community Colleges. Within the funds available pursuant to this section each fiscal year, the
44 Authority shall award eligible students a one-time scholarship in an amount of up to one thousand
45 dollars (\$1,000). The Board of Governors and the President of The University of North Carolina
46 shall establish eligibility criteria for students, including students that participate in co-admission
47 or dual enrollment programs, or dual admission programs between constituent institutions and
48 community colleges, provided they meet other eligibility requirements. The Authority shall adopt
49 any necessary rules for administration of the scholarships.

50 **SECTION 3.2.** TAC/MCAC career pathways. – For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, there
51 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North

1 Carolina the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in recurring funds and two
2 hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in nonrecurring funds to support the work of the Transfer
3 Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Military Credit Advisory Council (MCAC). The funds shall
4 be used to accelerate efforts of TAC and MCAC to create new pathways programs, engage in
5 site reviews, evaluate additional military occupations and courses for credits, and build a
6 searchable database of military credit equivalencies.

7 **SECTION 3.3.** Open educational resources materials. – There is appropriated from
8 the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three
9 hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to reduce
10 student textbook costs through the curation and adoption by The University of North Carolina
11 System Office of high-quality open educational resources materials for the most commonly
12 taught courses across constituent institutions and community colleges. In curating and adopting
13 high-quality open educational resources materials, The UNC System Office shall give priority to
14 those courses that universally transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement entered
15 into by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges.

16 **SECTION 3.4.** Section 3.1 of this part applies beginning with the 2020-2021
17 academic year.

18 **PART IV. INCREASING ATTAINMENT THROUGH WORKFORCE TRAINING**

19 **SECTION 4.1.** Short-term workforce training parity. – There is appropriated from
20 the General Fund to the Community Colleges System Office the sum of eleven million five
21 hundred twenty thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars (\$11,520,449) in additional recurring
22 funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for short-term workforce training continuing education
23 programs that lead to a State or industry-recognized credential. These funds shall be used to
24 eliminate the full-time equivalent (FTE) determination disparity between short-term workforce
25 training programs and curriculum programs.

26 **SECTION 4.2.** Workforce development online registration. – For the 2019-2020
27 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community Colleges System
28 Office the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds and the sum of one million
29 five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the purchase of an online
30 registration system for continuing education courses.

31 **SECTION 4.3.(a)** Workforce development multicampus locations. – There is
32 appropriated from the General Fund to the Community Colleges System Office the sum of five
33 hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$566,587) in recurring funds for
34 the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the operation of the Forsyth Technical Community College
35 Transportation Technology Center.

36 **SECTION 4.3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community
37 Colleges System Office the sum of five hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred eighty-seven
38 dollars (\$566,587) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the operation of the
39 Guilford Technical Community College Aviation Campus.

40 **SECTION 4.3.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community
41 Colleges System Office the sum of five hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred eighty-seven
42 dollars (\$566,587) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the operation of the
43 Richmond Community College Scotland County Campus.

44 **SECTION 4.3.(d)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community
45 Colleges System Office the sum of five hundred sixty-six thousand five hundred eighty-seven
46 dollars (\$566,587) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the operation of the Wake
47 Technical Community College Research Triangle Park Campus.

48 **PART V. MODIFY CAREER COACH PROGRAM**

49 **SECTION 5.1.** G.S. 115D-21.5(c) reads as rewritten:
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1 "(c) Application for NC Career Coach Program Funding. – The board of trustees of a
2 community college and a local board of education of a local school administrative unit within the
3 service area of the community college jointly may apply for available funds for NC Career Coach
4 Program funding from the State Board of Community Colleges. The State Board of Community
5 Colleges shall establish a process for award of funds as follows:

6 (1) Advisory committee. – Establishment of an advisory committee, which shall
7 include representatives from the NC Community College System, the
8 Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Commerce, and at least
9 three representatives of the business community, to review applications and
10 make recommendations for funding awards to the State Board.

11 (2) Application submission requirements. – The State Board of Community
12 Colleges shall require at least the following:

13 a. Evidence of a signed memorandum of understanding that meets, at a
14 minimum, the requirements of this section.

15 b. Evidence that the funding request will be matched ~~dollar for dollar~~
16 with local ~~funds-funds~~ in accordance with the following:

17 1. Matching funds may come from public or private sources.

18 2. The match amount shall be determined based on the location
19 of a community college's main campus as follows:

20 I. If located in a tier one county as defined in
21 G.S. 143B-437.08, no local match shall be required.

22 II. If located in a tier two county as defined in
23 G.S. 143B-437.08, one dollar (\$1.00) of local funds for
24 every two dollars (\$2.00) in State funds shall be
25 required.

26 III. If located in a tier three county as defined in
27 G.S. 143B-437.08, one dollar (\$1.00) of local funds for
28 every one dollar (\$1.00) in State funds shall be
29 required.

30 (3) Awards criteria. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop
31 criteria for consideration in determining the award of funds that shall include
32 the following:

33 a. Consideration of the workforce needs of business and industry in the
34 region.

35 b. Targeting of resources to enhance ongoing economic activity within
36 the community college service area and surrounding counties.

37 c. Geographic diversity of awards."

38 **SECTION 5.2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Community
39 Colleges System Office the sum of two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) in
40 recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to support the NC Career Coach Program. These
41 funds shall be used to place additional community college career coaches in public high schools.

42 **SECTION 5.3.** This section applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

43 44 **PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

45 **SECTION 6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1, 2019.