

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

H

2

**HOUSE BILL 223
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/09**

Short Title: No High School Graduation Proj. Required. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 19, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REMOVING THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROJECT AS A
3 REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION AND DIRECTING THE PROGRAM
4 EVALUATION DIVISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO STUDY THE COST
5 AND EFFECTIVENESS OF REQUIRING A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
6 PROJECT.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

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

- 12 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special needs of
13 children;
- 14 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
- 15 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;
- 16 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the mastery of
17 competencies, including standards for graduation, that take into account
18 children with disabilities and, in particular, include appropriate
19 modifications;
- 20 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 21 (6) Required support programs;
- 22 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 23 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
- 24 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
- 25 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
- 26 (11) Facilities guidelines that reflect educational program appropriateness,
27 long-term cost efficiency, and safety considerations; and
- 28 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary.

29 The State Board shall not adopt or enforce any rule that requires Algebra I as a graduation
30 standard or as a requirement for a high school diploma for any student whose individualized
31 education program (i) identifies the student as learning disabled in the area of mathematics and
32 (ii) states that this learning disability will prevent the student from mastering Algebra I.

33 The State Board shall not require any student to prepare a high school graduation project as
34 a condition of graduation from high school prior to July 1, 2011; local boards of education may,
35 however, require their students to complete a high school graduation project."

36 **SECTION 2.** The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly shall
37 study the cost and effectiveness of a statewide high school graduation project. The



- 1 Division shall report the results of its study to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
2 Committee on or before July 1, 2010.
3 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.