

April 12, 2001

H 1137. DEAF SCHOOLS CHANGES. TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE OPERATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF, TO REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY INTO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES. Appropriates \$1,000,000 for 2001-2002 and \$1,000,000 for 2002-2003 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services to provide clothing and laundering services to children at schools for the deaf. Also requires that the dep't develop a dress code for all students. Closes the Central School for the Deaf in Greensboro and reallocates all funds currently allocated to that school to all remaining schools for the death for instructional purposes. Requires that the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Comm. study the organization of the schools for the deaf and to issue a final report prior to the 2002 Regular Session of the 2001 General Assembly. Amends GS 143B-146.21 to provide that the director of a school for the deaf may require residential school personnel who are not proficient in sign language to receive monthly instruction. Also specifies that the Dep't of Public Instruction, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, and the State Board of Community Colleges offer annual professional development opportunities for personnel assigned to the state's residential schools, particularly the Governor Morehead School and the schools for the deaf. Adds new section GS 143B-216.40(c) to provide that the primary purpose of the schools for the deaf is to educate deaf students for whom an individualized educational program team has determined that a residential setting is the least restrictive environment in which the student can receive an appropriate education. Allows nonresidential students to attend classes at the schools when listed conditions are met. Amends GS 143B-146.3 to require that the Dep't of Education develop performance standards for the schools and to report annually on the performance of the schools. Effective July 1, 2001.

Intro. by Arnold.

Ref. to Rules	GS 143B, STUDY, APPROP.
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