

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE DRS75159-LE-157 (3/10)**

Short Title: Initiatives to Close the Achievement Gap.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Lucas.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE WORK AND OPERATIONS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICALLY MINORITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND MANAGE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO DISSEMINATE AND REPLICATE THESE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to continue to support the operations and work of the North Carolina Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium to close the education achievement gap in accordance with Section 8.28 of S.L. 2000-67. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate funds for this purpose for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium shall continue its work as provided in Section 8.28(i) of S.L. 2000-67 to determine the best practices and methodologies for closing the achievement gap among children of various demographic groups who are performing below grade level. The consortium shall work with rural and low-wealth communities to replicate at least six community-based programs.

The State Board of Education and the Research Council of the Education Cabinet shall make an interim report regarding its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March of each year, and shall

1 make a final report by March 15, 2010, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
2 Committee.

3       **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of  
4 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of one hundred fifty thousand  
5 dollars (\$150,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. These funds shall be used by the  
6 Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium to fund the implementation  
7 of a study to examine and profile the history of organized education for American  
8 Indians and African Americans in North Carolina, as recommended in The North  
9 Carolina Commission on Raising Achievement and Closing Gap's Final Report to the  
10 State Board of Education. In the course of the study, the Consortium shall:

- 11       (1) Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the school environment on  
12 the education of African American and American Indian youth prior to  
13 school desegregation in North Carolina and during the decades that  
14 followed.
- 15       (2) Identify best practices and models that impact achievement of minority  
16 students including school, home, and community.
- 17       (3) Develop strategies for using the findings from the study to influence  
18 school policy changes at the local and State levels to improve the  
19 school environment and academic achievement of African American  
20 and American Indian youth.
- 21       (4) Design a training model for community parents, teachers, and  
22 administrators based on best practices found in research.
- 23       (5) Work with the State to infuse best practices and key research findings  
24 into school curricula and policy guidelines for all local school  
25 administrative units throughout the State.

26       The State Board of Education and the Research Council of the Education  
27 Cabinet shall make an interim report regarding the findings of the study and their  
28 recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1,  
29 2006, and shall make a final report by July 1, 2006, to the Joint Legislative Education  
30 Oversight Committee.

31       **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.