

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2418

Short Title: Reestablish Com. on Dropout Prevention/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Parmon, Fisher, Bryant, Tarleton (Primary Sponsors); Alexander, Current, Glazier, Harrison, McLawhorn, Wainwright, Weiss, and Wray.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO REESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON DROPOUT PREVENTION TO
3 AWARD ADDITIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION GRANTS, TO
4 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS
5 FOR A CONSULTANT TO STAFF THE COMMITTEE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Committee. – The Committee on Dropout Prevention, as
8 established in S.L. 2007-323, Section 7.32(c), is reestablished. The Committee shall be
9 located administratively in the Department of Public Instruction but shall exercise its
10 powers and duties independently of the Department of Public Instruction. The
11 Department of Public Instruction shall provide for the administrative costs of the
12 Committee. The Department of Public Instruction shall contract with an independent
13 consultant to serve as staff to the Committee, to provide technical assistance to the grant
14 recipients for the length of the grant, and to assist the Committee in evaluating the
15 impact of the grants awarded.

16 The Committee shall determine which local school administrative units,
17 schools, agencies, and nonprofits shall receive dropout prevention grants under Section
18 2 of this act, the amount of each grant, and eligible uses of the grant funding. The
19 Committee shall consist of the following 15 members:

- 20 (1) The Governor shall appoint five members, of whom one is a
21 superintendent of schools, one is a representative of a nonprofit, and
22 one is a school social worker;
- 23 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint five members,
24 of whom one is a principal, one is a representative of a school of
25 education, and one is a school counselor; and

- 1 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five
2 members, of whom one is a teacher, one is a member of the business
3 community, and one is a representative of the juvenile justice system.

4 The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Committee. The appointing
6 authorities are encouraged to provide representation on the Committee from each of the
7 eight educational districts as defined in G.S. 115C-65. The members of the Committee
8 shall assure they are in compliance with laws and rules governing conflicts of interest.
9 The Committee shall meet on the call of the cochairs provided that the Committee shall
10 meet at least once every three months.

11 **SECTION 2.** Dropout Prevention Grants. – The Committee shall select
12 grant recipients from applications received in the process outlined in Section 7.32(d) of
13 S.L. 2007-323. Using the existing grant reviews, the Committee shall establish a cutoff
14 score and award grants to applicants that both meet the cutoff score and did not
15 previously receive funding under S.L. 2007-323.

16 The following criteria apply to dropout prevention grants approved by the
17 Committee established under Section 1 of this act:

- 18 (1) Grants shall be issued in varying amounts up to a maximum of one
19 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).
20 (2) These grants shall be provided to innovative programs and initiatives
21 that target students at risk of dropping out of school and that
22 demonstrate the potential to (i) be developed into effective,
23 sustainable, and coordinated dropout prevention and reentry programs
24 in middle schools and high schools and (ii) serve as effective models
25 for other programs.
26 (3) Priority shall be given to new programs and initiatives or to those that
27 have begun within the last five school years.
28 (4) Grants shall be distributed geographically throughout the State and
29 throughout the eight educational districts as defined in G.S. 115C-65.
30 No more than three grants shall be awarded in any one county under
31 this section in a single fiscal year.
32 (5) Grants may be made to local school administrative units, schools, local
33 agencies, or nonprofit organizations.
34 (6) Grants shall be to programs and initiatives that hold all students to
35 high academic and personal standards.
36 (7) Grant applications shall state (i) how grant funds will be used, (ii)
37 what, if any, other resources will be used in conjunction with the grant
38 funds, (iii) how the program or initiative will be coordinated to
39 enhance the effectiveness of existing programs, initiatives, or services
40 in the community, and (iv) a process for evaluating the success of the
41 program or initiative.
42 (8) Programs and initiatives that receive grants under this section shall be
43 based on best practices for helping at-risk students achieve successful
44 academic progress, preventing students from dropping out of school or

1 for increasing the high school completion rate for those students who
2 already have dropped out of school.

3 (9) Priority for grants shall be given to proposals that demonstrate input
4 from the local community and coordination with other available
5 programs or resources.

6 (10) Grantees shall assure their compliance with applicable laws and rules
7 regulating conflicts of interest.

8 (11) Priority for grants shall be given to programs that would serve students
9 in local schools that have a four-year cohort graduation rate of less
10 than sixty-five percent (65%) and that are from counties that did not
11 receive funding under S.L. 2007-323. The Committee shall establish a
12 grant rating cut-off score at such a level as to allow for consideration
13 of all viable grants in this priority category. The Committee may
14 require grantees to provide supplemental information in response to
15 any prior reviewer comments.

16 (12) Grants shall be made no later than November 1, 2008.

17 The Committee shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout
18 Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
19 Committee on the grants awarded under this act by March 1, 2009.

20 **SECTION 3.** Evaluation. – The Committee shall evaluate the impact of the
21 dropout prevention grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 and under Section 2 of this act.
22 In evaluating the impact of the grants, the Committee shall consider:

23 (1) How grant funds were used, including the services provided for teen
24 pregnancy prevention and for pregnant and parenting teens;

25 (2) What, if any, other resources were used in conjunction with the grant
26 funds;

27 (3) How the program or initiative was coordinated to enhance the
28 effectiveness of existing programs, initiatives, or services in the
29 community;

30 (4) The success of the program or initiative, as indicated by the evaluation
31 process stated in its grant application;

32 (5) The sustainability of the program;

33 (6) The number, gender, ethnicity, and grade level of students being
34 served as well as whether the student left school due to pregnancy or
35 parenting responsibilities;

36 (7) For those grant recipients using money for health education programs,
37 whether those programs include comprehensive sexuality education
38 and medically accurate information about contraceptives including
39 abstinence;

40 (8) The potential for the program to serve as a model for achieving
41 successful academic progress for at-risk students; and

42 (9) Other indicators of the impact of the grant on dropout prevention.

43 The recipients of the dropout prevention grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323
44 shall report to the Committee on Dropout Prevention by January 31, 2009, and by

1 September 30, 2009. The Committee shall make an interim report of the results of its
2 evaluation of the grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 by March 31, 2009, to the Joint
3 Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and to the
4 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall make a final
5 report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 by
6 November 15, 2009, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and
7 High School Graduation and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

8 The recipients of the dropout prevention grants awarded under Section 2 of
9 this act shall report to the Committee on Dropout Prevention by January 31, 2010, and
10 by September 30, 2010. The Committee shall make an interim report of the results of its
11 evaluation of the grants awarded under Section 2 of this bill by March 31, 2010, to the
12 Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and
13 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall make a
14 final report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under Section 2 of this
15 act by November 15, 2010, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention
16 and High School Graduation and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
17 Committee.

18 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19 Department of Public Instruction, Committee on Dropout Prevention, the sum of fifteen
20 million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to provide dropout
21 prevention grants. Five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) for the
22 2008-2009 fiscal year shall be used to provide for 40 additional dropout prevention
23 grants to be awarded in accordance with Section 2 of this act. The remaining funds
24 shall be used in accordance with Section 2 of this act to provide additional funding to
25 the recipients of grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 or to award grants to applicants
26 that did not previously receive funding under S.L. 2007-323. Priority for additional
27 funding of grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 shall be given to programs that would
28 serve students in local schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than
29 sixty-five percent (65%).

30 **SECTION 5.** Funds appropriated for the dropout prevention grants for the
31 2007-2008 fiscal year shall not revert on December 31, 2008, but shall remain available
32 for expenditure until August 31, 2009. Funds appropriated for the 2008-2009 fiscal
33 year shall not revert on June 30, 2009, but shall remain available for expenditure until
34 August 31, 2010.

35 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
36 Department of Public Instruction, Committee on Dropout Prevention, the sum of one
37 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to issue a request for
38 proposals from qualified vendors on a competitive basis to contract as a consultant to
39 staff the Committee, assist with the evaluation, and provide technical assistance. The
40 factors to be considered in awarding the contract shall be identified in the request for
41 proposals.

42 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.