

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 287

Short Title: Increase Dropout Age From 16 to 17. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Moffitt, Brandon, and D. Ross (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Judiciary Subcommittee C.

March 13, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT STUDENTS FROM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE  
3 AGE OF SEVENTEEN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-378(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(a) Every parent, guardian or custodian in this State having charge or control of a child  
7 between the ages of seven and ~~16~~17 years shall cause the child to attend school continuously  
8 for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in  
9 ~~session.~~ session, unless the child graduates from high school. Every parent, guardian, or  
10 custodian in this State having charge or control of a child under age seven who is enrolled in a  
11 public school in grades kindergarten through two shall also cause the child to attend school  
12 continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is  
13 assigned shall be in session unless the child has withdrawn from school."

14 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-238.66(3) reads as rewritten:

15 "(3) School attendance. – Every parent, guardian, or other person in this State  
16 having charge or control of a child who is enrolled in the regional school and  
17 who is less than ~~16~~17 years of age shall cause such child to attend school  
18 continuously for a period equal to the time that the regional school shall be  
19 ~~in session.~~ session, unless the child graduates from high school. No person  
20 shall encourage, entice, or counsel any child to be unlawfully absent from  
21 the regional school. Any person who aids or abets a student's unlawful  
22 absence from the regional school shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class  
23 1 misdemeanor. The principal shall be responsible for implementing such  
24 additional policies concerning compulsory attendance as shall be adopted by  
25 the board of directors, including regulations concerning lawful and unlawful  
26 absences, permissible excuses for temporary absences, maintenance of  
27 attendance records, and attendance counseling."

28 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 116-235(b)(2) reads as rewritten:

29 "(2) School Attendance. – Every parent, guardian, or other person in this State  
30 having charge or control of a child who is enrolled in the School and who is  
31 less than ~~16~~17 years of age shall cause such child to attend school  
32 continuously for a period equal to the time which the School shall be in  
33 ~~session.~~ session, unless the child graduates from high school. No person  
34 shall encourage, entice, or counsel any child to be unlawfully absent from  
35 the School. Any person who aids or abets a student's unlawful absence from



1 the School shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The  
2 Chancellor of the School shall be responsible for implementing such  
3 additional policies concerning compulsory attendance as shall be adopted by  
4 the Board of Trustees, including regulations concerning lawful and unlawful  
5 absences, permissible excuses for temporary absences, maintenance of  
6 attendance records, and attendance counseling."

7 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7B-1501(27) reads as rewritten:

8 "(27) Undisciplined juvenile. –

- 9 a. A juvenile who, while less than ~~16~~17 years of age but at least 6 years  
10 of age, is unlawfully absent from school; or is regularly disobedient  
11 to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's parent,  
12 guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where it is  
13 unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a period  
14 of more than 24 hours; or  
15 b. A juvenile who is ~~16 or~~ 17 years of age and who is regularly  
16 disobedient to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's  
17 parent, guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where  
18 it is unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a  
19 period of more than 24 hours."

20 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 143B-805(20) reads as rewritten:

21 "(20) Undisciplined juvenile. –

- 22 a. A juvenile who, while less than ~~16~~17 years of age but at least 6 years  
23 of age, is unlawfully absent from school; or is regularly disobedient  
24 to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's parent,  
25 guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where it is  
26 unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a period  
27 of more than 24 hours; or  
28 b. A juvenile who is ~~16 or~~ 17 years of age and who is regularly  
29 disobedient to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's  
30 parent, guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where  
31 it is unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a  
32 period of more than 24 hours."

33 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.