

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 587
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/17/13
Third Edition Engrossed 4/18/13

Short Title: OCS/ECS/Exemption From ACT.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 8, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXEMPT STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE OCCUPATIONAL COURSE OF
3 STUDY AND THE EXTENDED COURSE OF STUDY FROM THE ACT AND ACT
4 PRECURSOR TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) reads as rewritten:

7 "(4) To the extent funds are made available, the State Board shall plan for and
8 require the administration of the ACT test for all students in the eleventh
9 grade unless the student has already taken a comparable test and scored at or
10 above a level set by the State Board. The State Board shall not require the
11 administration of the ACT test or any precursor test to the ACT test, such as
12 PLAN or EXPLORE to a student who is enrolled in the Occupational Course
13 of Study or the Extended Course of Study who (i) does not score at or above
14 grade level on any State-approved end-of-course tests and (ii) has a written
15 parental request for exemption. The State Board of Education shall ensure
16 that parents of students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study or the
17 Extended Course of Study in all public schools, including charter and
18 regional schools have the necessary information to make informed decisions
19 regarding participation in the ACT and aligned precursor tests. The State
20 Board may develop alternative assessment measures for these students."

21 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-174.22 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 115C-174.22. Tools for student learning.**

23 To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, and except as otherwise provided in
24 G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4), the State Board shall plan for and require the administration of
25 diagnostic tests in the eighth and tenth grades that align to the ACT test in order to help
26 diagnose student learning and provide for students an indication of whether they are on track to
27 be remediation-free at a community college or university."

28 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education shall apply to the U.S. Department of
29 Education for an amendment to the federal waiver obtained by the State Board regarding
30 accountability measures under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 6311,
31 to implement the requirements of this act.

32 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective September 1, 2014, or
33 upon the approval of the waiver amendment required to be submitted to the U.S. Department of
34 Education in accordance with Section 3 of this act, whichever occurs earlier. The remainder of
35 this act is effective when it becomes law.

