

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

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**HOUSE BILL 1097**

Short Title: Extended Learning for Elective Courses. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Willis, Hardister, Clemmons, and Winslow (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 27, 2022

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXTEND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTIVE COURSE CREDIT.

Whereas, students are involved in many programs outside of the traditional classroom and these programs have educational value; and

Whereas, many entities, including, but not limited to, nonprofits, after-school programs, businesses, and trade associations, may have an interest in offering programs outside of the traditional classroom that are attractive to students and contain educational value; and

Whereas, learning opportunities that are designed to address the interests and aptitudes of each student have the potential to allow every kid to discover, develop, and apply their talents to realize their full potential; and

Whereas, there exist policies that multiply educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom in other states; and

Whereas, providing credit for alternative educational opportunities will enrich the learning environment of students and develop well-rounded individuals ready for a life of learning, productive work, and community involvement; Now, therefore, The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(34b) To Adopt Expanded Learning Opportunity Policies. – Each local board of education shall have the power to adopt a policy to expand learning opportunities that allows approved alternative educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom to qualify as elective course credit based on the model policy developed by the State Board pursuant to subsection (a) of G.S. 115C-104.10. The policy adopted by the local board shall include the following:

a. A list of entities eligible to submit proposals for alternative educational opportunities that shall qualify as elective course credit. These entities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Nonprofit organizations.
2. Businesses located in the State.
3. Trade associations.

b. An application process for eligible entities to submit proposals for alternative educational opportunities that shall qualify for elective course credit. The local board shall have the authority to approve or



1 deny an application for an alternative educational opportunity. If the  
2 application is denied, the local board shall provide a detailed  
3 explanation of the reasons for its denial and suggest ways to improve  
4 the application for approval by the local board.

5 c. The criteria that will be used to evaluate the alternative educational  
6 opportunity.

7 d. A requirement that for a program to be approved, it must align with  
8 content standards already in existence for elective courses or be linked  
9 to a CTE program, a STEM program, an agricultural program, or  
10 programs specifically discussing North Carolina cultural history.

11 e. Any requirements that a selected entity shall follow if the entity is  
12 approved to provide an alternative educational opportunity that  
13 qualifies as elective course credit, including any requirements for  
14 instructional personnel and instructional standards. The local board  
15 shall have the authority to audit approved alternative educational  
16 programs at any time. If the audit results in findings that an approved  
17 program is not meeting the requirements created pursuant to this  
18 sub-subdivision or the policy created pursuant to this subdivision, then  
19 the local board may disqualify the program immediately."

20 **SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
21 a new Part to read:

22 "Part 6. Expanded Learning Opportunities.

23 **"§ 115C-104.10. Expanded learning opportunity policy.**

24 The State Board of Education shall develop a model policy to expand learning opportunities  
25 that allows approved alternative educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom to  
26 qualify as elective course credit. Local boards of education shall have the power to adopt local  
27 policies based on the model policy provided by the State Board. The model policy shall include  
28 at least the following:

29 (1) A list of types of entities eligible to submit proposals for alternative  
30 educational opportunities that shall qualify as elective course credit. These  
31 types of entities include, but are not limited to, the following:

32 a. Nonprofit organizations.

33 b. Businesses located in the State.

34 c. Trade associations.

35 (2) An example application process for eligible entities to submit proposals for  
36 alternative educational opportunities that shall qualify for elective course  
37 credit.

38 (3) Example criteria that may be used to evaluate the alternative educational  
39 opportunity.

40 (4) A requirement that for a program to be approved, it must align with content  
41 standards already in existence for elective courses or be linked to a CTE  
42 program, a STEM program, an agricultural program, or programs specifically  
43 discussing North Carolina cultural history.

44 (5) Suggested requirements that a selected entity shall follow if the entity is  
45 approved to provide an alternative educational opportunity that qualifies as  
46 elective course credit, including any requirements for instructional personnel  
47 and instructional standards."

48 **SECTION 3.** The State Board shall create the model policy pursuant to Section 2 of  
49 this act and make it available to local boards of education by December 15, 2022.

1           **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
2 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for  
3 the 2022-2023 fiscal year for administrative costs to implement this act.

4           **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.