

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1031

Short Title: Reduce Barriers to College Completion. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Cervania and Prather (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 7, 2024

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE IN-STATE TUITION FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF LAWFULLY
ADMITTED OR LAWFULLY PRESENT NONCITIZENS.

Whereas, it is projected that by 2030, sixty-seven percent (67%) of jobs will require a postsecondary degree or credential, underscoring the importance of the educational attainment goal in North Carolina to have two million North Carolinians between the ages of 25 and 44 with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030; and

Whereas, on its current trajectory, North Carolina will fall short by at least 71,000 individuals to meet our projected workforce needs; and

Whereas, over eighty percent (80%) of employers in the State reported difficulty finding employees for jobs requiring industry-valued credentials; and

Whereas, jobs requiring industry-valued credentials are expected to increase by more than eleven percent (11%) in the next six years; and

Whereas, children of H-1B visa holders who are lawfully admitted or lawfully present and documented residents receive in-State tuition until they are 21 years old and are not yet finished with their four-year degrees; and

Whereas, immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, State, and local taxes that fund our public universities; and

Whereas, North Carolina must increase the number of postsecondary-, public-university-educated individuals so the State can have more potential employees entering the workforce with industry-valued credentials; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 116-143.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(i1) A person who was lawfully admitted to this State or is lawfully present in this State and meets the following requirements is eligible to be charged the in-State tuition rate:

(1) Has a parent or legal guardian who meets all of the following criteria:

a. Was lawfully admitted to the United States or is lawfully present in the United States.

b. Is not a citizen of the United States.

c. Holds a valid H-1B visa or L-1 visa.

(2) Meets all of the following criteria:

a. Either of the following:

1. Holds a valid H4 visa.

2. All of the following:



