

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 726

Short Title: Youth Mentoring & Academic Enhancement Comm. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives A. Jones, Hawkins, and G. Pierce (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

April 3, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON YOUTH
3 MENTORING AND ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 9 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new Part to read:

7 "Part 10G. Commission on Youth Mentoring and Academic Enhancement.

8 **"§ 143B-394.45. Commission on Youth Mentoring and Academic Enhancement.**

9 (a) Creation and Duties. – There is established the North Carolina Commission on Youth
10 Mentoring and Academic Enhancement of the Department of Administration. The Commission
11 shall have the following powers and duties:

12 (1) Establish a grant program for small- to medium-sized youth nonprofit
13 mentoring and tutoring organizations located in North Carolina with the
14 intended goals of (i) sustaining current and new community programs that are
15 effectively reaching high school students, (ii) reducing risk behavior factors,
16 specifically substance use disorders and gang involvement, and (iii) increasing
17 the number of positive adult and community connections for young people.

18 (2) Develop an application process for the program and inform mentoring
19 organizations how to apply.

20 (3) Work with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and public
21 school districts across all 100 North Carolina counties to identify at-risk
22 students and schools.

23 (4) Consult with the Council for Women and Youth Involvement as needed.

24 (b) Membership. – The Commission shall consist of 12 members appointed by the
25 Governor as follows:

26 (1) Two employees of a local mentoring or youth development nonprofit
27 organization representing different counties.

28 (2) Two participants between the ages of 14 and 18 who are in the mentorship
29 program. Students must apply to the position and be recommended by local
30 school officials.

31 (3) Two representatives of the Department of Public Instruction.

32 (4) Two representatives of the business community.

33 (5) Two representatives of philanthropic communities.

34 (6) Two public school instructors representing different counties.



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1 (c) Terms and Chair. – Non-student members shall serve three-year terms, with no
2 prohibition against being reappointed. Any individual appointed to serve on the Commission
3 shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. The Commission shall elect a
4 chair and vice-chair from its membership to serve a term of one year. No person may serve as
5 chairperson for more than two consecutive years. Students are to be selected for one-year terms.

6 (d) Meetings. – The chair shall convene the meetings of the Commission. Meetings shall
7 be held as often as necessary but not less than two times per year.

8 (e) Quorum. – A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum
9 for the transaction of business. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at
10 meetings of the Commission shall be necessary for action to be taken by the Commission.

11 (f) Vacancies. – A vacancy on the Commission or as chair of the Commission resulting
12 from the resignation of a member or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner in which the
13 original appointment was made, and the term shall be for the balance of the unexpired term.

14 (g) Removal. – The Governor may remove a member for misfeasance, malfeasance,
15 nonfeasance, or neglect of duty.

16 (h) Compensation. – Excluding salaried youth mentors, commission members shall
17 receive no per diem for their services but shall be entitled to receive travel allowances in
18 accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5 or G.S. 138-6, as appropriate.

19 (i) Staffing. – The Secretary of the Department of Administration shall be responsible
20 for staffing the Commission. In choosing student members, the Secretary must consult with
21 respective school districts.

22 (j) Grant Program. – Programs shall consist of individuals who are responsible for youth
23 guidance. If possible, at least three-fifths of those employed in a nonadministrative capacity shall
24 be below 30 years of age and from the same county they are assigned. Programs shall consist of
25 academic tutoring for core subjects. Activities should also consist of enrichment opportunities,
26 as determined by the Commission. Funding for the grant program shall come from the State
27 Education Lottery.

28 (k) Reports. – The Commission shall provide an annual report on or before December 1
29 on the distributions of the grants to the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on General
30 Government, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and
31 Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the
32 following:

33 (1) The number of organizations that applied for grants.

34 (2) The amount of grant funds awarded and the names of the recipients.

35 (3) The balance of funds remaining.

36 (4) The improved academic performance of participants in the program.

37 (l) Funding for Commission. – From funds available to the Department of
38 Administration, the Secretary shall allocate monies to fund the work of the Commission."

39 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.