

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 968
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40378-NG-12

Short Title: Youth CERT Preparedness K-12 Training. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cervania.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1.(a) Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new Part to read:

6 "Part 7. Instructional Requirements.

7 "§ 115C-76.80. Instructional requirements.

8 Each public school unit shall provide instruction pursuant to the requirements of this Part.

9 "§ 115C-76.85. Emergency preparedness education.

10 (a) Instruction shall be provided in emergency preparedness from kindergarten through
11 high school. The State Board of Education shall adopt standards for instruction in emergency
12 preparedness, differentiated between elementary school, middle school, and high school.

13 (b) Standards for elementary school instruction shall begin not before grade three and
14 include at least the following:

15 (1) Education on man-made and natural disasters.

16 (2) Roles of various parties during disasters, such as (i) students, (ii) teachers, and
17 (iii) first responders.

18 (3) The emergency response plan of the school or local school administrative unit
19 and any supplies that are available in accordance with the emergency response
20 plan.

21 (c) Standards for middle school instruction shall include at least the following:

22 (1) Updated instruction from the elementary school standards to reflect any
23 changes that have occurred or to reflect the student's new school placement.

24 (2) Completion of a project researching a past disaster, whether natural or
25 man-made.

26 (3) Responses to mass casualty events, including the different types of mass
27 casualty events.

28 (4) Education on electrical hazards and how to exert proper care around electrical
29 sources.

30 (d) Standards for high school instruction shall include at least the following:

31 (1) Updated instruction from the elementary school and middle school standards
32 to reflect any changes that have occurred or to reflect the student's new school
33 placement.

34 (2) Introduction to the material in the Community Emergency Response Team
35 (CERT) Basic Training Manual issued by the Federal Emergency
36 Management Agency.



1 (e) Local school administrative units shall determine the appropriate courses during
2 which instruction pursuant to this section shall be provided."

3 **SECTION 1.(b)** Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
4 amended by adding a new section to read:

5 "**§ 115C-81.67. Emergency preparedness.**

6 Each local board of education shall develop and implement emergency preparedness
7 instruction consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-76.85."

8 **SECTION 1.(c)** Article 4 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by
9 adding a new section to read:

10 "**§ 116-69.05. Informational literacy.**

11 The school shall provide instruction in emergency preparedness consistent with
12 G.S. 115C-76.85."

13 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 116-235(a1) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

14 "(1a) The Board of Trustees shall ensure that instruction in emergency preparedness
15 consistent with G.S. 115C-76.85 is included in the standard course of study
16 for the School."

17 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
18 the 2025-2026 school year.