

House Bill Summaries

SESSION LAW 2006-75

HB 836 – Memorial Day Program in the Schools

Amends G.S. 115C-12 to expand State Board of Education duties to develop instructional programs on the meaning and importance of Memorial Day. Emphasizes that all schools, especially those that meet on Memorial Day, must recognize the significance of Memorial Day.

SESSION LAW 2006-249

HB 1059 – State Health Plan Changes

Amends major medical plan by encouraging cost-savings initiatives such as coverage of approved over-the-counter medications and adopting programs that offer incentives for covered employees to maintain healthy lifestyles.

SESSION LAW 2006-65

HB 1074 – Clarify School Admissions Procedures

Amends G.S. 115C-366 to provide clarification of procedures for school admissions regarding homeless youth in compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001, additional circumstances under which a student is considered domiciled within an LEA, and applicable definitions within this section.

SESSION LAW 2006-153

HB 1151 – Planning Time and Duty-Free Lunch for Teachers

Amends G.S. 115C-105.27 related to school improvement plans that will (i) include a plan to provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement team and (ii) include a plan to provide duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week. This applies to school improvement plans beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

SESSION LAW 2006-208

HB 1155 – Safe Transportation for School Students

Directs LEAs to develop a policy for activity bus usage for travel to athletic events and other school-sponsored events. Directs DPI, along with the Department of Transportation, to develop a program for issuing a statewide permit to commercial motor coach companies that seek to contract with LEAs.

SESSION LAW 2006-143

HB 1502 – Schoolchildren’s Health Act

Amends G.S. 115C-12 to direct the State Board of Education to address public health and environmental issues in the classroom and on school grounds related to arsenic-treated wood, pesticides, mercury, and mold/mildew. Amends G.S. 115C-47 to direct LEAs to address the use of pesticides, arsenic-treated wood, mercury and exposure to diesel exhaust fumes.

House Bill Summaries

SESSION LAW 2006-160

HB 2880 – No Prayer for Judgment/ Bus Stop Arm Violation

Prevents a person convicted of a bus stop arm violation from receiving a prayer for judgment continued under any circumstances.

House Bill Summaries

ADOPTED

HJR 1811 – Federal Funding

A House Resolution urging Congress to increase funding for the No Child Left Behind Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SESSION LAW 2006-23

HB 1864 – Ensure Fair Competition in School Athletics (Local)

Establishes a small school conference in Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrell and Washington counties.

SESSION LAW 2006-247

HB 1896 – Protect Children/Sex Offender Law Changes

Outlines substantial changes to sex offender laws. Makes it a class g felony for a sex offender to reside within one thousand feet of a public or nonpublic school or a child care center.

SESSION LAW 2006-69

HB 1908 – Rewrite Special Education Laws

Creates revised special education laws for the state to be in line with federal legislation.

SESSION LAW 2006-225

HB 2212 – Lottery Oversight Commission

Establishes a nine-member commission, of which three appointed members will be educators.

SESSION LAW 2006-3

HB 2358 – Use of Activity Buses for Local Events (Local)

Allows the Haywood County Consolidated School System Board of Education to permit use of activity buses for Haywood Community College activities.

SESSION LAW 2006-13

HB 2527 – Cherokee School Attendance (Local)

Permits a nonresident student who attended Cherokee County schools during the 2005-2006 school year to continue to attend with paying tuition until graduation or the student leaves Cherokee County Schools.

SESSION LAW 2006-240

HB 2699 – Vision Care Program Changes

Amends G.S. 130A-440 to require vision screening for students entering school during the 2007-2008 school year. A comprehensive eye examination is required for children who fail the vision screening. Amends G.S. 143B-216.75 to increase the number of appointed members on the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care from six to ten.

ADOPTED

HJR 2879 – U.S. Department of Education/ Regulations for Student Disabilities

A House Resolution urging the United States Department of Education to respond quickly but thoughtfully on the final regulations for students with disabilities, allow sufficient time for states to implement the final regulations, and afford as much flexibility as possible to the states during the interim period.

- Sales Tax Exemption for Local School Units (H.B. 2460 – Yongue, Carney, England, and Gibson)
- High School Graduation/Drop out Rate (Parmon, Weiss)
- Sound Basic Education (Lucas)

Part XXIV. Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Information Technology Studies. Final report is due February 15, 2007. Commission will:

- Review the newly revised NC Education Technology Plan developed by the State Board of Education.
- Review best practices for using technology to enhance teaching and learning in North Carolina schools.
- Review existing research-based best practices such as the IMPACT model, NC Wise Owl, and successful 1:1 (computer-to-student) initiatives across the State and nation.
- Receive recommendations from the Business and Education Technology Alliance, the E-Learning Commission, the business community, and the North Carolina Center for 21st Century Skills.

Part XXXIV. Study Youthful Offenders (H.B. 1298- Bordsen). Report due to the 2007 General Assembly by March 1, 2007.

- The North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission may study issues related to the conviction and sentencing of youthful offenders aged 16 to 21 years to determine whether the State should amend the laws concerning these offenders.
- The Commission will consult with the Department of Correction, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Department of Public Instruction in conducting the study.

Part XLI. Local School Construction Financing Study (Yongue) Final report due to the 2007 General Assembly.

- Amends Section 7.32.(b) of SL 2004-124 to reduce the number of Commission members from twenty to nineteen. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chair of the State Board of Education are Commission members.

Part L. Legislative Study Commission on the Budget of the Department of Public Instruction The report is due to the 2007 General Assembly.

- The Commission's purpose is to perform a zero-based budget review of the Department of Public Instruction.

Part LI. State Board of Education Study of Personnel Communication Concerning Disabilities

- The State Board of Education, in cooperation with Division TEACCH and the North Carolina Justice Academy, shall study training for public school personnel designed to facilitate, when needed, effective communication and transfer of information about students with autism and other disabilities between school personnel and school resource officers.
- SBE shall report to the 2007 General Assembly on or before March 31, 2007.

SESSION LAW 2006-248

HB 1723 – Studies Act of 2006

(Only studies affecting public schools or public school employees are listed below.)

Part II. Legislative Research Commission. For each topic the Commission decides to study, the Commission may report its findings and any recommended legislation to the 2007 General Assembly when it convenes.

The Commission may study:

- Beneficiary designation and dependent survivors of members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (Dorsett)
- State employee mediation and length of backlog of appeals process (Rand)
- Mediation of State employee grievances (H.B. 716 – Coleman)
- Severance pay changes (H.B. 703 – Crawford)
- State employee demonstration projects (H.B. 730 – Crawford, Sherrill)
- Prospective elimination of SPA longevity pay (H.B. 731 – Crawford)
- Flexible benefits program centralized under OSP (H.B. 751 – Crawford, Holliman)
- Sick leave bank and family leave (H.B. 2746 – Insko; S.B. 2007-Atwater)

Part V. Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee Studies. For each topic the Committee decides to study, the Committee may report its findings and any recommended legislation to the 2007 General Assembly when it convenes.

The JLEOC may study:

- Changes in Education Districts (H.B. 1505 – Yongue, Preston, Johnson, Carney)
- Raising the Compulsory School Attendance Age (H.B. 1079 – Parmon, Glazer, Womble, McLawhorn; S.B. 878 – Garrou)
- Child Nutrition Services (H.B. 696 – Insko)
- Class Size Funding Formula for Children With Special Needs (H.B. 693 – Glazier, Parmon)
- Track Students Throughout Education (H.B. 640)
- Impact of Student Mobility on Academic Performance (H.B. 388 – Folwell; S.B. 171 – Dalton)
- Appropriate Education for Suspended Students (H.B. 1747 – Preston, Bell, Parmon, Stam)
- Corporal Punishment Policies (H.B. 1462 – Alexander)
- Strategies for Targeting Educational Programs and Resources (Swindell, Lucas, Garrou)
- Workforce Preparation in the Public Schools (S.B. 898 – Brown)
- Community College Tuition Reciprocity (S.B. 779 – Snow)
- Information Requirements for School Admission/Assignment (H.B. 1480 – Folwell)
- Joint Education Leadership Team for Disadvantaged Students (Carney, Yongue; Clodfelter)
- Education Facility Financing (H.B. 1272 – Yongue)
- School Psychologists (Swindell)
- Civics Education (H.B. 2469 – Glazier)
- Local School Construction Financing (H.B. 2189 – Yongue)
- Teacher Assistant Salary Schedule (H.B. 2842 – McLawhorn)
- Tax on Lottery Winnings/Community College Equipment (H. B. 1991 – Yongue, Tolson, Jeffus)

