

SESSION LAW 2007-375

SB 8 - Expand Safe Zones/Schools/Parks, Child Care Centers

Effective December 1, 2007, G.S. 90-95(e) is amended to increase the “Safe Zones” near child care centers, school grounds, and all public parks from 300 feet to 1,000 feet.

SESSION LAW 2007- 119

SB 211 - Electronic Signatures/Public Agencies

Revises the law governing electronic signatures by clarifying that public agencies may use, as well as accept, electronic signatures.

SESSION LAW 2007- 36

SB 258 - Adopt Salute To Flag

Adopts the Salute to the Flag of North Carolina as the official pledge to the state flag. There is no requirement to salute the flag.

SESSION LAW 2007- 59

SB 260 - Schools Provide Information on Cervical Cancer

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, local boards of education, DPI, and the Division of Nonpublic Education, and the Department of Administration shall ensure that educational materials are provided to parents and guardians concerning cervical cancer, cervical dysphasia, human papillomavirus, and the vaccines available to prevent these diseases.

SESSION LAW 2007- 50

SB 386 – Warren School Board Election (Local)

Enacted to confirm that Warren County Board of Education members are to be elected from townships as provided in Chapter 335 of the Public-Local Laws of 1937 and to provide that newly elected members of that Board take office 30 days after certification of the election results.

SESSION LAW 2007- 187

SB 583 - Public Health Technical Changes

Section 2 of this law amends G.S. 130A-155(c); public schools shall file an immunization report with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources annually by November 1 beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

SESSION LAW 2007- 545

SB 613 - 2007 Technical Corrections Act

Makes technical amendments to the General Statutes

- Removes the 2011 sunset in Session Law 2005-198 related to community colleges providing a program of study for lateral entry teachers.
- Amends G.S. 115C-295.1(f) related to compensation for their services and reimbursement of expenses to members of the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission.

SESSION LAW 2007- 179

SB 659 Officials Forfeit Pensions For Felonies

Adds a new section to Article 1A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes to provide that elected officials who are members of the Legislative Retirement System, the Local Governmental Employees', the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, or the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System shall forfeit their pensions upon conviction of a State or Federal offense involving public corruption or a felony violation of election laws.

SESSION LAW 2007- 388

SB 720 - Open Enrollment/Contributory Death Benefit

Provides an open enrollment period in the contributory Death Benefit for retired members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, and the Legislative Retirement System.

SESSION LAW 2007- 274

SB 753 - Disability History & Awareness Month

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the month of October is designated as Disability History and Awareness Month and this law requires local boards of education to provide instruction on disability history and awareness.

SESSION LAW 2007- 85

SB 772 - School Finance Officer Fidelity Bonds

Effective July 1, 2008, this law changes the amount of the fidelity bond required of school finance officers from a minimum of \$25,000 to \$50,000 with no maximum cap on the amount of the fidelity bond.

SESSION LAW 2007- 191

SB 812 - Safety Restraint Systems On School Buses

Directs the Child Fatality Task Force to study issues related to requiring the installation and use of passenger safety restraint systems on school buses and report its findings, recommendations, and recommended legislation to the 2008 General Assembly Regular Session on or before May 1, 2008.

SESSION LAW 2007- 378

SB 914 - Teachers Convert Personal Leave To Sick Leave

Teachers may accumulate personal leave without any applicable maximum until June 30 of each year and carry forward up to five days personal leave. The remainder of personal leave shall be converted to sick leave on June 30. Upon retirement a teacher may convert accumulated personal leave to sick leave for service towards retirement. A teacher shall not take personal leave on the first day the teacher is required to report for the school year, on a required teacher workday, on days scheduled for State testing, or on the day before or after a holiday or scheduled vacation day, unless the request is approved by the principal. On all other days, if the request is made at least five days in advance, the request shall automatically be granted subject to the availability of a substitute teacher. Personal leave is earned by classroom teachers and school media specialists who require a substitute

SESSION LAW 2007- 382

SB 924 - School Bus Safety Correction

Amends G.S. 20-217(g) to change the element making passing a stopped school bus and striking a person a Class I felony; amends G.S. 20-4.01(27)d4. removing the requirement of signage being at least eight inches from the definition of school bus to correspond to the changes made to G.S. 20-217 in the 2005 Session and requiring that school buses be painted primarily yellow below the roofline.

SESSION LAW 2007- 277

SB 1030 - ROPE Scholars Pilot Program

Directs the SBE to develop a framework for a Reaching One's Potential for Excellence (ROPE) Scholars Program. This law outlines the intent of the pilot program and requires the SBE to select three local administrative units from different geographic areas of the State; one will be urban and one will be rural. The Program shall be implemented beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, and the SBE shall develop a process to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program. Reports are due to JLEOC by October 15, 2007, (a draft proposed framework) and by December 15, 2007 (the final proposal including the cost of implementation).

SESSION LAW 2007- 236

SB 1086 - Tobacco Free Schools

By August 1, 2008, local boards of education shall adopt, implement, and enforce a written policy prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, and any other school property owned or operated by the local school administrative unit. This policy also applies to persons attending any offsite school-sponsored event.

SESSION LAW 2007- 379

SB 1090 - Amend Social Workers Licensure Laws

Amends several sections of Chapter 90B of the General Statutes with certain provisions to allow for provisional licensure of clinical social workers under the laws regulating the practice of social work.

SESSION LAW 2007- 376

SB 1115 - Pilot Program For Lateral Entry Teachers

Directs the SBE to establish a pilot program for lateral entry teachers. A local administrative unit, community college, or college or university may be granted approval by the SBE to pilot an innovative program for lateral entry teachers. The SBE shall adopt polices and procedures by December 15, 2007, and report to JLEOC on the effectiveness of the programs by October 15, 2010.

CHAPTERED RESOLUTION 2007- 37

SJR 1168 – Joint Session/ Confirm State Board of Education Members

The General Assembly convened to confirm appointments by the Governor of new members of the State Board of Education.

CHAPTERED RESOLUTION 2007- 47

SJR 1169 – Confirm State Board of Education Members

Confirms the appointments of Kevin D. Howell and Eulada P. Watt to membership on the State Board of Education for terms to expire March 31, 2015.

SESSION LAW 2007- 365

SB 1245 - Retainage Payments/Construction Contracts

The law on retainage by owners and general contractors has been extensively rewritten to require no more than 5% retainage on the first half of the contract (basically) and no further retainage for the remainder of the project based on work and workmanship. Other language has been added about early contractors being paid as well as timelines for payment. It also references general contractor's payments on retainage. The owner may still withhold payment due to unsatisfactory job progress, defective construction not remedied, disputed work, or third-party filed claims against the owner or evidence of a third-party claim to be filed. The above summary is very brief, and it is important to read the bill in its entirety to understand fully the changes in the law. Effective January 1, 2008.

SESSION LAW 2007- 409

SB 1292 - Modify Requirements/Teachers License Renewal

Direct the SBE to adopt a policy requiring teachers to take three renewal credits in their academic subject area as part of the licensure renewal process.

SESSION LAW 2007- 423

SB 1452 - Diesel School Buses To Use Minimum B-20 Fuel

Requires that at least two percent (2%) of the total volume of fuel purchased annually by local school districts statewide for use in school bus diesel engine motor vehicles shall be biodiesel fuel of a minimum blend of B-20, to the extent that biodiesel fuel is available and compatible with the technology of the vehicles or equipment used. This law becomes effective June 1, 2008.

SESSION LAW 2007- 445

SB 1479 - High-Needs Schools/Additional Support

The SBE shall designate schools which meet two or more criteria as high-need schools: (1) more than 45% performing at Level 1 or Level 2, (2) teacher turnover rate greater than 25% or (3) more than 80% of students qualify for free-or reduced lunch. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the following modifications to law, policy, or both shall apply: (1) NBPTS teachers who serve as literacy coaches, mentors, etc. shall retain their 12% salary differential, and (2) National Board Certified Teachers, teachers of the year, and other accomplished teachers designated by the SBE shall be given academic freedom to use research-based practices in the classroom that go beyond the standard course of study. The SBE shall consider strategies outlined in this law and on the additional support needed for high-need schools by January 15, 2008.

SESSION LAW 2007- 509

SB 1546 - Clarify Public Access To Personnel Records

Clarifies the public's access to public employee personnel records and to make changes to the law pertaining to confidentiality of competitive health care information. Specifically, a local board of education shall maintain a record of each of its employees to include the terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the board has the written contract or has a record of the oral contract in its possession. Law also adds language defining the term "salary" to include pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity.

CHAPTERED RESOLUTION 2007- 57

SJR 1566 – Honor Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas

Outlines a Joint Resolution honoring the life and memory of Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas.

