

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1154

Short Title: Safe School Plans/Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Black; Aldridge, Alexander, Arnold, Baddour, Beall, Bonner, Bowie, Braswell, Brawley, Brown, Buchanan, Cole, Culpepper, Davis, Dedmon, Dickson, Earle, Easterling, Fox, Gamble, Goodwin, Grady, Hackney, Hiatt, H. Hunter, R. Hunter, Hurley, Insko, Jarrell, Jeffus, Luebke, Mercer, Michaux, Miller, Moore, Mosley, Nesbitt, Oldham, Owens, Preston, Ramsey, Redwine, Rogers, Russell, Saunders, Smith, Tolson, Wainwright, Warner, Warwick, Watson, Wilkins, and Yongue.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 24, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE SCHOOL PLANS
2 AND TO HOLD PRINCIPALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE SAFETY OF
3 SCHOOLS.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
7 Article to read:

8 **"ARTICLE 8C.**

9 **"LOCAL PLANS FOR MAINTAINING SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS.**

10 **"§ 115C-105.45. Legislative findings. The General Assembly finds that all schools**
11 **should be safe, secure, and orderly. If students are to aim for academic**
12 **excellence, it is imperative that there is a climate of respect in every school**
13 **and that every school is free of disruption, drugs, violence, and weapons.**
14 **All schools must have plans, policies, and procedures for dealing with**
15 **disorderly and disruptive behavior. All schools and school units must**

1 have effective measures for assisting students who are at risk of academic
2 failure or of engaging in disruptive and disorderly behavior.

3 **"§ 115C-105.46. State Board of Education responsibilities.**

4 In order to implement this Article, the State Board of Education:

- 5 (1) Shall adopt guidelines for developing local plans under G.S. 115C-
6 105.47;
7 (2) Shall provide, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of The
8 University of North Carolina, ongoing technical assistance to the local
9 school administrative units in the development, implementation, and
10 evaluation of their local plans under G.S. 115C-105.47;
11 (3) May require a local board of education to withhold the salary of any
12 administrator or other employee of local school administrative units
13 who delays or refuses to prepare and implement local safe school plans
14 in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.47;
15 (4) May revoke the certificate of the superintendent, pursuant to G.S. 115C-
16 274(c), for failure to fulfill the superintendent's duties under a local safe
17 school plan.

18 **"§ 115C-105.47. Local plans.**

19 (a) Each local board of education shall develop a local plan designed to ensure that
20 every school in the local school administrative unit is safe, secure, and orderly, that there
21 is a climate of respect in every school, and that appropriate personal conduct is a priority
22 for all students and all public school personnel. The board shall include parents, the
23 school community, representatives of the community, and others in the development of
24 this plan. The plan may be developed by or in conjunction with other committees.

25 (b) Each plan shall include the following components:

- 26 (1) Clear statements of the standard of behavior expected of students at
27 different grade levels and of school personnel and clear statements of
28 the consequences that will result from one or more violations of those
29 standards;
30 (2) A clear statement of the responsibility of the superintendent for
31 coordinating the adoption and the implementation of the plan,
32 evaluating principals' performance regarding school safety, monitoring
33 and evaluating the implementation of safety plans at the school-level,
34 and coordinating with local law enforcement and court officials
35 appropriate aspects of implementation of the plan. The statement of
36 responsibility shall provide appropriate disciplinary consequences that
37 may occur if the superintendent fails to carry out these responsibilities,
38 including a reprimand in the superintendent's personnel file and
39 withholding of the superintendent's salary;
40 (3) A clear statement of the responsibility of the school principal for
41 restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe, secure, and orderly
42 school environment and of the consequences that may occur if the
43 principal fails to meet that responsibility. The principal's duties shall

1 include exhibiting appropriate leadership for school personnel and
2 students, providing for alternative placements for students who are
3 seriously disruptive, reporting all criminal acts pursuant to G.S. 115C-
4 288(g), and providing appropriate disciplinary consequences for
5 disruptive students. The consequences to the principal that may occur
6 shall include a reprimand in the principal's personnel file, disciplinary
7 proceedings under G.S. 115C-325 for principals who hold career status,
8 and disciplinary proceedings under the principal's contract for principals
9 who are under contract;

10 (4) Clear statements of the roles of other administrators, teachers, and other
11 school personnel in restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe,
12 secure, and orderly school environment;

13 (5) Procedures for identifying and serving the needs of students who are at
14 risk of academic failure or of engaging in disruptive or disorderly
15 behavior;

16 (6) Mechanisms for assessing the needs of disruptive and disorderly
17 students, providing them with services to assist them in achieving
18 academically and in modifying their behavior, and removing them from
19 the classroom or the school when necessary;

20 (7) Measurable objectives for improving school safety and order;

21 (8) Measures of the effectiveness of efforts to assist students at risk of
22 academic failure or of engaging in disorderly or disruptive behavior;

23 (9) Professional development clearly matched to the goals and objectives of
24 the plan;

25 (10) A plan to work effectively with local law enforcement officials and
26 court officials to ensure that schools are safe and laws are enforced;

27 (11) A plan to provide access to information to the school community,
28 parents, and representatives of the local community on the ongoing
29 implementation of the local plan, monitoring of the local plan, and the
30 integration of educational and other services for students into the total
31 school program;

32 (12) The name and role description of the person responsible for
33 implementation of the plan;

34 (13) Direction to school improvement teams within the local school
35 administrative unit to consider the special conditions at their schools
36 and to incorporate into their local school improvement plans the
37 appropriate components of the local plan for maintaining safe and
38 orderly schools; and

39 (14) Any other information the local board considers necessary or
40 appropriate to implement this Article.

41 (c) Upon its approval of the plan developed under this section, the local board
42 shall submit the plan to the State Board of Education for its review and comments. The

1 local board shall consider the comments it receives from the State Board before it
2 implements the plan.

3 (d) A plan shall remain in effect for no more than three years. The local board
4 may amend the plan as often as it considers necessary or appropriate. Any changes to a
5 plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for its review and comments.
6 The local board shall consider the State Board's comments before it implements the
7 changes."

8 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
9 Education the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the
10 sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal year for the development
11 of guidelines for local safe school plans and for providing technical assistance to local
12 school administrative units, in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.46, as enacted in Section
13 1 of this act.

14 Section 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.