

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 568

Short Title: Schools Must Protect Student & Family Privacy. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Ellis.

Referred to: Education.

March 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 29 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-405. Protection of the rights of students and their families.

(a) All instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary materials, that will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any program shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the children.

(b) No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning any of the following without (i) the prior written consent of the student's parent if the student is an unemancipated minor or (ii) the prior consent of the student if the student is an adult or emancipated minor:

(1) Political affiliations;

(2) Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;

(3) Sex behavior and attitudes;

(4) Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;

(5) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;

(6) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or

(7) Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

1 (c) All surveys, analyses, and evaluations that are subject to the provisions of
2 subsection (b) of this section shall be marked "Anonymous and Confidential" and the
3 local board of education and its employees shall maintain the anonymity and the
4 confidentiality of students' responses. A student's responses to such survey, analysis, or
5 evaluation shall not be retained in that student's school record. No student shall be
6 disciplined or penalized in any way because of the student's responses to such survey,
7 analysis, or evaluation.

8 (d) Local school administrative units shall give parents and students effective
9 notice of their rights under this section.

10 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and policies to implement the
11 provisions of this section.

12 (f) The State Board of Education shall establish a review panel within the
13 Department of Public Instruction to investigate, process, and review alleged violations
14 of this section. If the review panel determines that there has been a failure to comply
15 with such section, and that compliance with such section cannot be secured by voluntary
16 means, the review panel shall report the matter to the State Board of Education. The
17 State Board shall take such action as it determines appropriate to enforce this section."

18 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to all
19 school years beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.