

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1535

Short Title: Study Project Graduate. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lucas, Bell, Yongue (Primary Sponsors); Coates, Earle, Faison, Hughes, Pierce, Tarleton, and Wray.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 23, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON  
3 PROJECT GRADUATE AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY TO IMPLEMENT THE STUDY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is created the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Project  
7 Graduate. The Committee shall consist of 12 members. The Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives shall appoint six members, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall  
9 appoint six members.

10 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
11 Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Committee. The Committee may meet at any time  
12 upon the joint call of the cochairs. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the same  
13 appointing authority as made the initial appointment.

14 The Committee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers  
15 provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Committee may  
16 contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

17 Subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Committee may  
18 meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building. The Legislative Services  
19 Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist  
20 the Committee in its work. The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Director of  
21 Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to the Committee, and the expenses relating to  
22 the clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee. Members of the Committee shall  
23 receive subsistence and travel expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as  
24 appropriate.

25 **SECTION 2.** The Committee shall identify the number of adults in North Carolina  
26 who have credit hours at a State institution of higher education but who have not earned a  
27 bachelor's degree. The Committee shall consider initiatives, incentives, and methods to recruit  
28 these adults back to college to complete their degree. In its study the Committee shall focus  
29 particularly on Kentucky's Project Graduate and the initiatives that the Kentucky program has  
30 implemented to recruit adults to return to college to complete the requirements for a  
31 baccalaureate degree. In its study the Committee may also consider how providing the  
32 following for each State university would help targeted students graduate:

33 (1) Tuition assistance.

34 (2) A degree audit program showing the student exactly which courses are  
35 needed to complete the degree in the student's initial field of study or in  
36 another discipline.



- 1 (3) Providing academic advisers trained to assist an adult student with course  
2 scheduling and to explain requirements and university procedures.  
3 (4) A simplified application for readmission and waiver of the usual application  
4 fee.  
5 (5) Early admission and registration.  
6 (6) Establishing an adult resource center on campus and providing adult student  
7 services.

8 In addition, the Committee may consider any other issues that are relevant to  
9 designing and implementing a statewide college access initiative for adults and may consider  
10 any other issues relevant to this study.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Committee may make an interim report, including any  
12 legislative recommendations, to the 2009 General Assembly, 2010 Regular Session, and shall  
13 submit a final report, including any legislative recommendations, to the 2011 General  
14 Assembly. The Committee shall terminate upon filing its final report or upon the convening of  
15 the 2011 General Assembly, whichever is earlier.

16 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General  
17 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and  
18 the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to be allocated  
19 to the Legislative Services Commission and used to fund the work of the Committee  
20 established by this act.

21 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.