

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 188*
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/18/09**

Short Title: Study Raising Compulsory Attendance Age.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 18, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
2 CAROLINA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
3 INSTRUCTION AND THE NORTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND
4 UNIVERSITIES, TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE ENTITY TO STUDY THE
5 IMPACTS OF RAISING THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE FOR PUBLIC
6 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
7 FROM SIXTEEN TO SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
8 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH
9 SCHOOL GRADUATION.
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11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.** The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in
13 coordination with the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Independent
14 Colleges and Universities, shall direct the appropriate entity to study the impacts of raising the
15 compulsory public school attendance age prior to completion of a high school diploma from 16
16 to 17 or 18. In its study, the Board of Governors shall consider all of the following:

- 17 (1) What impacts, including fiscal impacts, has raising the compulsory school
18 attendance age had in states which have raised the compulsory school
19 attendance age in the last 15 years.
20 (2) What conclusions can be drawn as to the impact the compulsory school
21 attendance age has made in the dropout and high school completion rates for
22 states who require compulsory school attendance to ages 16, 17, and 18,
23 respectively.
24 (3) What best practices for working with at-risk populations of students who
25 remain in school have been employed in states that have raised the
26 compulsory attendance age in the last 15 years.
27 (4) What would be the fiscal impact in raising the compulsory school attendance
28 age from 16 to 17 and 16 to 18, respectively, for each local administrative
29 school unit in North Carolina.

30 **SECTION 2.** No later than December 31, 2009, the Board of Governors of The
31 University of North Carolina shall submit a report of its study to the Joint Legislative
32 Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative
33 Education Oversight Committee, including its findings and recommendations.

34 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

