

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 971  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/12/09

Short Title: Legislative Study of Alternative Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 2, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT DIRECTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS.

Whereas, an average of one in 10 North Carolina students receives a short-term  
out-of-school suspension each year; and

Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, there were a total of 308,010  
short-term suspensions resulting in a loss of between 924,030 and 1,540,050 instructional days;  
and

Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, a disproportionate number of  
short-term out-of-school suspensions were received by African-American, American Indian,  
ninth graders, and special education students; and

Whereas, similar patterns are seen with long-term suspensions, which are  
suspensions of 11 days or more; and

Whereas, during the 2006-2007 school year, there were a total of 4,682 long-term  
suspensions resulting in more than 50,000 days of lost instructional time; and

Whereas, young people who are suspended from school are at an increased risk of  
poor academic performance, being less connected to the school setting, dropping out of school,  
and becoming involved in the juvenile justice, criminal justice, and mental health systems; and

Whereas, encouraging connectedness to school and focusing on those at risk of  
being suspended or expelled would undoubtedly improve the outcomes for these children;  
Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study the  
number of alternative schools that currently exist in North Carolina, how effective those  
schools are in helping at-risk students reach academic success, and any other issues that the  
Committee considers relevant to this topic. The Committee shall report the results of this study  
to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly.

**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

