

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 66*
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 4/8/09

Short Title: Require Arts Educ. Credit for Graduation. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 5, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ONE ARTS
3 EDUCATION CREDIT FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL AS
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTS EDUCATION.

5 Whereas, North Carolina's economy needs a workforce that is not only educated but
6 able to excel in innovation and creativity; and

7 Whereas, arts education has been demonstrated to increase the skills and knowledge
8 required for graduation; and

9 Whereas, arts education can close achievement gaps, improve academic skills in
10 reading and language development, and support the math and science curriculum; and

11 Whereas, arts education accelerates student performance, teaches discipline and
12 teamwork, improves self-esteem, and gives students a reason to stay in school; and

13 Whereas, arts education provides a comprehensive, rigorous, and balanced
14 education for all children in North Carolina's schools; Now, therefore,
15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 **SECTION 1.** The State Board of Education shall modify the State high school
17 graduation requirements to include one required credit in arts education. The credit must be
18 earned in one of the four disciplines in arts education: theatre, music, visual arts, or dance. The
19 course must be taken at the high school level and must be taught by a licensed arts educator
20 using the standard course of study.

21 The State Board of Education shall implement this high school arts education
22 requirement beginning with students entering the ninth grade in 2011.

23 A Work Group on Arts Education shall be formed including representatives of the
24 Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Cultural Resources to study, plan, and
25 recommend implementation models for the high school arts education requirement.

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

