

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 704
House Committee Substitute Favorable 5/24/10

Short Title: Reform Low-Performing Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 24, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO SOLELY PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE STATE BOARD OF
2 EDUCATION TO APPROVE REQUESTS OF LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO
3 REFORM CONTINUALLY LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS AS EITHER A
4 TRANSFORMATION MODEL, RESTART MODEL, TURNAROUND MODEL, OR
5 SCHOOL CLOSURE MODEL; TO DEFINE TRANSFORMATION MODEL AS A
6 SCHOOL WHICH INCREASES TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER
7 EFFECTIVENESS, CREATES COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL REFORM
8 STRATEGIES, INCREASES LEARNING TIME, CREATES COMMUNITY-ORIENTED
9 SCHOOLS, AND PROVIDES OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY AND SUSTAINED
10 SUPPORT; TO DEFINE RESTART MODEL AS ALLOWING THE SCHOOL TO
11 OPERATE UNDER THE SAME RULES AS A CHARTER SCHOOL OR UNDER THE
12 MANAGEMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION WITH
13 NO INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AS
14 PROVIDED IN G.S. 115C-238.29D(b); TO DEFINE TURNAROUND MODEL AS
15 REPLACING THE PRINCIPAL IF THE PRINCIPAL HAS BEEN IN THAT POSITION
16 FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS AND REHIRING NO MORE THAN FIFTY
17 PERCENT OF SCHOOL STAFF, ADOPTING A NEW SCHOOL GOVERNANCE
18 STRUCTURE CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 8B OF CHAPTER 115C OF THE
19 GENERAL STATUTES, AND IMPLEMENTING AN INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
20 ALIGNED WITH THE STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY; TO DEFINE SCHOOL
21 CLOSURE MODEL AS CLOSING THE SCHOOL CONSISTENT WITH G.S. 115C-72
22 AND ENROLLING THE STUDENTS IN ANOTHER HIGHER-ACHIEVING SCHOOL
23 IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE
24 25 OF CHAPTER 115C OF THE GENERAL STATUTES; AND TO PROVIDE
25 AUTHORIZATION TO THE STATE BOARD TO ADOPT RULES AND PROCEDURES
26 CONSISTENT WITH THESE DEFINED MODELS; AND TO IMPLEMENT THESE
27 MODELS WITH ANNUAL REPORTING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
28 FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

30 **SECTION 1.** Article 8B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
31 adding a new section to read:

32 **"§ 115C-105.37B. Reform of continually low-performing schools.**

33 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the State Board of Education is
34 authorized to approve a local board of education's request to reform any school in its
35 administrative unit which the State Board of Education has identified as one of the continually
36 low-performing schools in North Carolina.
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1 If the State Board of Education approves a local board of education's request to reform a
2 school, the State Board of Education may authorize the local board of education to adopt one of
3 the following models in accordance with State Board of Education requirements:

4 (1) Transformation model, which would address the following four specific
5 areas critical to transforming a continually low-performing school:

6 a. Developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness.

7 b. Comprehensive instructional reform strategies.

8 c. Increasing learning time and creating community-oriented schools.

9 d. Providing operational flexibility and sustained support.

10 (2) Restart model, in which the State Board of Education would authorize the
11 local board of education to operate the school with the same exemptions
12 from statutes and rules as a charter school authorized under Part 6A of
13 Article 16 of this Chapter, or under the management of an educational
14 management organization that has been selected through a rigorous review
15 process. A school operated under this subdivision remains under the control
16 of the local board of education, and employees assigned to the school are
17 employees of the local school administrative unit. This subdivision shall not
18 be interpreted to increase the maximum number of charter schools provided
19 in G.S. 115C-238.29D(b).

20 (3) Turnaround model, which would involve, among other actions, replacing the
21 principal, if the principal has been in that position for at least three years,
22 and rehiring no more than fifty percent (50%) of the school's staff, adopting
23 a new governance structure at the school consistent with this Article, and
24 implementing an instructional program aligned with the Standard Course of
25 Study.

26 (4) School closure model, in which a local school administrative unit would
27 close the school consistent with G.S. 115C-72 and enroll the students who
28 attended the school in other, higher-achieving schools in the local school
29 administrative unit consistent with Article 25 of this Chapter.

30 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to develop requirements for the
31 models for school reform established in subsection (a) of this section.

32 (c) The State Board shall establish a procedure to implement this section. This
33 procedure shall include annual reporting requirements from local boards that are authorized to
34 use one of the models under this section and shall include a procedure for removing or
35 continuing the authorization."

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