

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

H

1

HOUSE BILL 123

Short Title: Legislators Spend Time in Schools. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives R. Johnson and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 3, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE LEGISLATORS TO SPEND TIME IN THEIR LOCAL PUBLIC
3 SCHOOLS.

4 Whereas, the legislative power of the State is vested in the General Assembly, and
5 the General Assembly enacts the State's budget; and

6 Whereas, thirty-eight percent (38%) of the State's budget goes to the operation of
7 the public schools, kindergarten through twelfth grade; and

8 Whereas, it is vitally important that legislators understand the issues related to
9 educating our children; Now, therefore,

10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11 **SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by
12 adding a new section to read:

13 **"§ 120-9.1. Members visit public schools.**

14 Each member is responsible for educating himself or herself about the needs of the public
15 schools in the member's legislative district."

16 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 120-3.1(a) reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 120-3.1. Subsistence and travel allowances for members of the General Assembly.**

18 (a) In addition to compensation for their services, members of the General Assembly
19 shall be paid the following allowances:

20 ...

- 21 (3) A subsistence allowance for meals and lodging at a daily rate equal to the
22 maximum per diem rate for federal employees traveling to Raleigh, North
23 Carolina, as set out at 58 Federal Register 67959 (December 22, 1993),
24 while the General Assembly is in session and, except as otherwise provided
25 in this subdivision, while the General Assembly is not in session when, with
26 the approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the case of
27 Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in case of
28 Senators, the member is:

- 29 a. Traveling as a representative of the General Assembly or of its
30 committees or commissions, or
31 b. Otherwise in the service of the State.

32 A member who is authorized to travel, whether in or out of session,
33 within the United States outside North Carolina, may elect to receive, in lieu
34 of the amount provided in the preceding paragraph, a subsistence allowance
35 of twenty-six dollars (\$26.00) a day for meals, plus actual expenses for



* H 1 2 3 - V - 1 *

1 lodging when evidenced by a receipt satisfactory to the Legislative Services
2 Officer, the latter not to exceed the maximum per diem rate for federal
3 employees traveling to the same place, as set out at 58 Federal Register
4 67950-67964 (December 22, 1993) and at 59 Federal Register 23702-23709
5 (May 6, 1994).

6 As used in this subdivision, the phrase "in the service of the State"
7 includes no more than four days per year spent visiting public schools in the
8 member's district. Each day of attendance must be documented by the host
9 principal or superintendent.

10"

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