SENATE BILL 530

Short Title:	Competency-Based Assessments.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Soucek (Primary Sponsor); and Krawiec.	
Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate.	

March 30, 2015

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
3   TRANSITION TO UTILIZING COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING ASSESSMENTS
4   FOR ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6   **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to transition to a system of
7 testing and assessments applicable for all elementary and secondary students that utilizes
8 competency-based learning assessments to measure student performance and student growth,
9 whenever practicable. The competency-based student assessment system should provide that (i)
10 students advance upon mastery, (ii) competencies are broken down into explicit and
11 measurable learning objectives, (iii) assessment is meaningful for students, (iv) students receive
12 differentiated support based on their learning needs, and (v) learning outcomes emphasize
13 competencies that include the application and creation of knowledge.
14   **SECTION 2.** In order to develop the use of competency-based assessments for all
15 elementary and secondary students in North Carolina as stated in Section 1 of this act, the State
16 Board of Education is encouraged to evaluate the feasibility of integrating competency-based
17 assessments for use in local school administrative units and as part of the statewide testing
18 system for measuring student performance and student growth. The State Board may examine
19 competency-based assessments in other states, including potential benefits and obstacles to
20 implementing similar systems in North Carolina, and the relationship between
21 competency-based assessments and innovative teaching methods utilized in North Carolina
22 schools, such as blended learning models and digital teaching tools.
23   **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.