

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**SENATE BILL 555**

Short Title: Student Reading Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Tillman, Stein (Primary Sponsors); and D. Davis.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE STUDENT READING ACT.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-83.3 reads as rewritten:  
5 "§ 115C-83.3. Definitions.

6 The following definitions apply in this Part:

7 ...

8 (2) "Alternative assessment" means a valid and reliable standardized assessment  
9 of reading comprehension, approved by the State Board of Education, that is  
10 not the same test as the State-approved standardized test of reading  
11 comprehension administered to third grade students. The State Board of  
12 Education shall (i) provide several valid and reliable alternative assessments  
13 to local school administrative units upon request, (ii) approve valid and  
14 reliable alternative assessments submitted by local school administrative  
15 units, and (iii) establish achievement level ranges for each approved  
16 alternative assessment. The State Board of Education shall annually review  
17 all alternative assessments to ensure ongoing relevance, validity, and  
18 reliability. The State Board of Education shall complete the review and  
19 approval process as provided in this subdivision by September 15 of each  
20 year.

21 ...

22 (8) "Student reading portfolio" means a compilation of independently produced  
23 student work selected by the student's teacher, beginning during the first half  
24 of the school year, and signed by the teacher and principal, as an accurate  
25 picture of the student's reading ~~ability-proficiency~~. The student reading  
26 portfolio shall include an organized collection of evidence of the student's  
27 ~~mastery of the State's reading standards that are assessed by the~~  
28 ~~State-approved standardized test of reading comprehension administered to~~  
29 ~~third grade students-reading proficiency~~. A single piece of evidence may be  
30 used to show mastery of reading proficiency for up to two standards. For  
31 each benchmark, reading standard, there shall be three-two examples of  
32 student workwork, gathered over the course of the school year,  
33 demonstrating mastery by a grade of seventy percent (70%) or above.the  
34 student's reading proficiency. If a student correctly responds to eighty  
35 percent (80%) of the comprehension questions about one reading passage as  
36 used as an initial work sample, then that one work sample shall suffice to



1 demonstrate student reading proficiency on the standards covered in that  
2 sample. A student reading portfolio shall only be compiled with students  
3 when it is determined that administration of a standardized test of reading  
4 comprehension would likely not yield positive findings of a student's reading  
5 proficiency.

6 ...."

7 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-83.8(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) Parents or guardians of third grade students not demonstrating reading proficiency  
9 shall be encouraged to enroll their student in a reading camp provided by the local school  
10 administrative unit. Parents or guardians of a student not demonstrating reading proficiency  
11 shall make the final decision regarding a student's reading camp attendance. Local school  
12 administrative units shall provide at least one opportunity for students not participating in a  
13 reading camp to demonstrate reading proficiency appropriate for third grade students on an  
14 alternative assessment or through a student reading portfolio process approved by the State  
15 Board of Education prior to retaining the student."

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-83.9(d) reads as rewritten:

17 "(d) Teachers and principals shall provide opportunities, including, but not limited to,  
18 information sessions, to discuss with parents and guardians the notifications listed in this  
19 section. Principals shall provide at least one information session within the first 30 days of  
20 school regarding the requirement for reading proficiency for third grade students."

21 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-83.11 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 115C-83.11. Continued support for students demonstrating reading proficiency.**

23 (a) Parents or guardians of a student demonstrating reading proficiency appropriate for  
24 a third grade student as provided under G.S. 115C-83.7 may choose to enroll the student in the  
25 reading camp as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(9) but may be charged an attendance fee. Local  
26 boards of education may establish a fee amount to be equal to the per student program cost of  
27 participating in the reading camp, not to exceed eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00).

28 (a1) A local school administrative unit may also provide a reading camp for students in  
29 kindergarten through second grade who are identified by their teachers as needing additional  
30 assistance to demonstrate reading proficiency in third grade. The local board of education shall  
31 adopt rules on how teachers are to identify these students and for making the camps available to  
32 them. Parents or guardians of a student not identified by their teachers may choose to enroll the  
33 student in such a reading camp but may be charged an attendance fee. The local board of  
34 education may establish a fee amount to be equal to the per student program cost of  
35 participating in the reading camp, not to exceed eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00).

36 (b) Priority enrollment in the reading camp is for students not demonstrating reading  
37 proficiency in third grade as provided under G.S. 115C-83.8. Local boards of education shall  
38 establish application procedures and enrollment priorities for reading camps for (i) students in  
39 kindergarten through second grade who are identified by their teachers in accordance with  
40 subsection (a1) of this section, (ii) students in kindergarten through second grade who are not  
41 identified by their teachers, and (iii) students in third grade who are demonstrating reading  
42 proficiency."

43 **SECTION 5.** Funds appropriated for the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium and  
44 subsequent fiscal biennia for reading camps as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(9) that are not  
45 needed for that purpose may, in the discretion of each local board of education, be used to  
46 provide a reading camp for students in kindergarten through second grade who need additional  
47 assistance to demonstrate reading proficiency in third grade in accordance with  
48 G.S. 115C-83.11(a1).

49 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
50 the 2015-2016 school year.