

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

S

1

SENATE BILL 84

Short Title: Dropout Prev. & Recovery Pilot Expansion. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Tillman (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 17, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY PILOT PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. S.L. 2014-104 reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 1.** S.L. 2011-259 is repealed.

"**SECTION 2.** The State Board of Education shall establish a ~~two-year~~three-year Dropout Prevention and Recovery Pilot Program (Pilot Program). The State Board of Education shall select one charter school in 2014 and one charter school in 2015 that has~~have~~ been approved by the State Board under G.S. 115C-238.29D to provide the educational services and programming for the Pilot Program. The purpose of the Pilot Program is to reengage students and increase the graduation rates in North Carolina through an educational program that provides flexible scheduling and a blended learning environment with individualized and self-paced learning options.

"**SECTION 3.** To be eligible to participate in the Pilot Program, the charter school's enrollment shall only include high school students who have (i) dropped out of high school or (ii) transferred from their high school to the charter school. For the purposes of this act, high school shall include ninth through twelfth grades. Transfer decisions shall be made by the student who is 18 years of age or older or the student's parents or guardians. The charter school, its affiliated charter management organization, or its education management organization must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as an indicator of quality instructional programming. All teachers employed by the charter ~~school~~schools participating in the Pilot Program shall be licensed teachers under G.S. 115C-296.

"**SECTION 4.** The charter ~~school~~schools participating in the Pilot Program shall develop and implement an alternative accountability model that meets the guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education for alternative learning programs under G.S. 115C-12(24).

"**SECTION 5.** For the charter ~~school~~schools participating in the Pilot Program, the allotments and adjustments shall be made as provided in G.S. 115C-238.29H and shall be adjusted on the basis of the average daily membership in the fifth month of the school year.

"**SECTION 6.** Existing charter schools meeting the criteria as provided in this act may apply to participate in the Pilot Program starting with the 2014-2015 school year no later than August 31, 2014. The State Board of Education shall select by September 30, 2014, the participant for the Pilot Program for the 2014-2015 ~~and through 2015-2016~~ school years. Existing charter schools meeting the criteria as provided in this act may apply to participate in the Pilot Program starting with the 2015-2016 school year no later than July 1, 2015. The State



1 Board of Education shall select by August 1, 2015, the participant for the Pilot Program for the
2 2015-2016 through 2016-2017 school years.

3 "SECTION 7. The State Board of Education shall submit ~~a~~an interim report by February
4 15, 2016, and a final report by November 15, 2017, to the Joint Legislative Education
5 Oversight Committee ~~by March 15, 2016,~~ on the outcomes of the Dropout Prevention and
6 Recovery Pilot Program, including (i) the number of students who dropped out of high school,
7 enrolled in the program, and completed a high school diploma, (ii) the results of the alternative
8 accountability model, and (iii) the impact on the ADM Contingency Reserve. The report shall
9 also include any recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Pilot
10 Program funding and accountability models.

11 "SECTION 8. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall provide an
12 interim report to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly on necessary
13 legislation to transition the Pilot Program into alternative charter schools serving high school
14 students who have dropped out of high school. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight
15 Committee shall make a final report on recommendations regarding the Pilot Program and its
16 outcomes to the General Assembly to the 2018 Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly.

17 "SECTION 8.5. The State Board of Education and the Charter Schools Advisory Board
18 shall jointly report by December 15, 2014, to the General Assembly on the utilization of
19 contracts for personnel services by local boards of education and charter school boards of
20 directors. The report shall indicate both the purposes and the extent of such contracts prevalent
21 in each local school administrative district and charter schools statewide.

22 "SECTION 9. This act is effective when it becomes law. The Pilot Program shall begin
23 with the 2014-2015 school year and shall conclude at the end of the ~~2015-2016~~2016-2017
24 school year."

25 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.