

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

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HOUSE BILL 570

Short Title: K-12 Academic Freedom. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Speciale, Pittman, Ford, and Boswell (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, State and Local Government II

April 6, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY OF
ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(46) Duty to Ensure Academic Freedom. – The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy to be implemented by local boards of education to ensure academic freedom in the classroom. Nothing in the policy shall prohibit an educator from maintaining a safe and orderly classroom or a timely agenda. The policy shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

- a. Students and educators are encouraged to respect the ideological, political, religious, or nonreligious viewpoints held by all persons in the classroom.
- b. Students and educators are permitted to engage in open dialogue, critical thinking, and the free exchange of ideas related to the content of the course.
- c. A student shall not be discriminated against or mocked for the student's ideological, political, religious, or nonreligious viewpoints.
- d. An educator shall not take a student's ideological, political, religious, or nonreligious viewpoints into account when evaluating the student's performance.
- e. Educators may answer questions posed by students with openness and honesty."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

