

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 965

Short Title: Climate Change/School Staff Dev. Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Harrison, K. Smith, and Carney (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

April 26, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSTRUCTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN GRADES
3 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH FIVE AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO LOCAL
4 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF
5 SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
8 adding a new section to read:

9 "**§ 115C-81.83. Instruction on climate change.**

10 (a) The State Board of Education shall review and revise as necessary the standard course
11 of study for grades kindergarten through five in the core academic area of science to ensure that
12 age-appropriate lessons on climate change and its impacts on the environment, the economy, and
13 society are taught in each grade level between grades kindergarten and five.

14 (b) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide or cause to be provided
15 curriculum content on climate change, and local boards of education shall provide or cause to be
16 provided professional development on climate change to ensure that the intent and provisions of
17 this section are effectively implemented."

18 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
19 Public Instruction the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in recurring funds for the
20 2019-2020 fiscal year to restore and expand funding that was eliminated for staff development
21 in the State budget for the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, S.L. 2011-145. These funds shall be
22 allocated to local school administrative units for professional development of school personnel
23 in grades kindergarten through five and subject to all laws and policies not inconsistent with this
24 section that are in effect regarding the allocation of staff development funds, including
25 G.S. 115C-105.30, G.S. 115C-417, Section 7.34 of S.L. 2003-284, and any applicable policy
26 adopted by the State Board of Education. The professional development provided pursuant to
27 this act shall include instruction on methods of teaching climate change as part of the science
28 curriculum pursuant to G.S. 115C-81.83, as enacted by this act.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019. Section 1(a) of this act applies
30 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

