

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 1097
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10613-NGa-110

Short Title: Extended Learning for Elective Courses. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Willis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXTEND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE
3 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTIVE COURSE CREDIT.

4 Whereas, students are involved in many programs outside of the traditional classroom
5 and these programs have educational value; and

6 Whereas, many entities, including, but not limited to, nonprofits, after-school
7 programs, businesses, and trade associations, may have an interest in offering programs outside
8 of the traditional classroom that are attractive to students and contain educational value; and

9 Whereas, learning opportunities that are designed to address the interests and
10 aptitudes of each student have the potential to allow every kid to discover, develop, and apply
11 their talents to realize their full potential; and

12 Whereas, there exist policies that multiply educational opportunities outside of the
13 traditional classroom in other states; and

14 Whereas, providing credit for alternative educational opportunities will enrich the
15 learning environment of students and develop well-rounded individuals ready for a life of
16 learning, productive work, and community involvement; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

19 "(34b) To Adopt Expanded Learning Opportunity Policies. – Each local board of
20 education shall have the power to adopt a policy to expand learning
21 opportunities that allows approved alternative educational opportunities
22 outside of the traditional classroom to qualify as elective course credit based
23 on the model policy developed by the State Board pursuant to subsection (a)
24 of G.S. 115C-104.10. The policy adopted by the local board shall include the
25 following:

26 a. A list of entities eligible to submit proposals for alternative educational
27 opportunities that shall qualify as elective course credit. These entities
28 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 29 1. Nonprofit organizations.
30 2. Businesses located in the State.
31 3. Trade associations.

32 b. An application process for eligible entities to submit proposals for
33 alternative educational opportunities that shall qualify for elective
34 course credit. The local board shall have the authority to approve or
35 deny an application for an alternative educational opportunity. If the
36 application is denied, the local board shall provide a detailed



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1 explanation of the reasons for its denial and suggest ways to improve
2 the application for approval by the local board.
3 c. The criteria that will be used to evaluate the alternative educational
4 opportunity.
5 d. A requirement that for a program to be approved, it must align with
6 content standards already in existence for elective courses or be linked
7 to a CTE program, a STEM program, an agricultural program, or
8 programs specifically discussing North Carolina cultural history.
9 e. Any requirements that a selected entity shall follow if the entity is
10 approved to provide an alternative educational opportunity that
11 qualifies as elective course credit, including any requirements for
12 instructional personnel and instructional standards. The local board
13 shall have the authority to audit approved alternative educational
14 programs at any time. If the audit results in findings that an approved
15 program is not meeting the requirements created pursuant to this
16 sub-subdivision or the policy created pursuant to this subdivision, then
17 the local board may disqualify the program immediately."

18 **SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding
19 a new Part to read:

20 "Part 6. Expanded Learning Opportunities.

21 **"§ 115C-104.10. Expanded learning opportunity policy.**

22 The State Board of Education shall develop a model policy to expand learning opportunities
23 that allows approved alternative educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom to
24 qualify as elective course credit. Local boards of education shall have the power to adopt local
25 policies based on the model policy provided by the State Board. The model policy shall include
26 at least the following:

- 27 (1) A list of types of entities eligible to submit proposals for alternative
28 educational opportunities that shall qualify as elective course credit. These
29 types of entities include, but are not limited to, the following:
30 a. Nonprofit organizations.
31 b. Businesses located in the State.
32 c. Trade associations.
33 (2) An example application process for eligible entities to submit proposals for
34 alternative educational opportunities that shall qualify for elective course
35 credit.
36 (3) Example criteria that may be used to evaluate the alternative educational
37 opportunity.
38 (4) A requirement that for a program to be approved, it must align with content
39 standards already in existence for elective courses or be linked to a CTE
40 program, a STEM program, an agricultural program, or programs specifically
41 discussing North Carolina cultural history.
42 (5) Suggested requirements that a selected entity shall follow if the entity is
43 approved to provide an alternative educational opportunity that qualifies as
44 elective course credit, including any requirements for instructional personnel
45 and instructional standards."

46 **SECTION 3.** The State Board shall create the model policy pursuant to Section 2 of
47 this act and make it available to local boards of education by December 15, 2022.

48 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
49 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for
50 the 2022-2023 fiscal year for administrative costs to implement this act.

51 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.