

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 931
Second Edition Engrossed 5/1/03**

Short Title: No Portfolio Required/Teacher Certification.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Shubert; and Brock.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER
2 CERTIFICATION.
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-296(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality
7 teacher education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the
8 competence of professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that
9 teacher preparation programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study,
10 the State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination and cooperation with the
11 University Board of Governors, the Board of Community Colleges and such other
12 public and private agencies as are necessary, shall continue to refine the several
13 certification requirements, standards for approval of institutions of teacher education,
14 standards for institution-based innovative and experimental programs, standards for
15 implementing consortium-based teacher education, and standards for improved
16 efficiencies in the administration of the approved programs. The certification program
17 shall provide for initial certification after completion of preservice training, continuing
18 certification after three years of teaching experience, and certificate renewal every five
19 years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last certificate renewal received
20 prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement.

21 The State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination with the Board of
22 Governors of The University of North Carolina and any other public and private
23 agencies as necessary, shall continue to raise standards for entry into teacher education
24 programs.

25 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The
26 University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for
27 continuing certification. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for
28 continuing certification and to the extent possible shall be aligned with quality
29 professional development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student

1 achievement. These rigorous standards shall not include a portfolio requirement for
2 teachers.

3 The State Board of Education, in consultation with local boards of education and the
4 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall reevaluate and enhance
5 the requirements for renewal of teacher certificates. The State Board shall consider
6 modifications in the certificate renewal achievement and to make it a mechanism for
7 teachers to renew continually their knowledge and professional skills. The State Board
8 shall adopt new standards for the renewal of teacher certificates by May 15, 1998.

9 The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require that
10 teacher education programs for students who do not major in special education include
11 demonstrated competencies in the identification and education of children with learning
12 disabilities. The State Board of Education shall incorporate the criteria developed in
13 accordance with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator
14 Training Program into its school administrator program approval standards.

15 All North Carolina institutions of higher education that offer teacher education
16 programs, masters degree programs in education, or masters degree programs in school
17 administration shall provide performance reports to the State Board of Education. The
18 performance reports shall follow a common format, shall be submitted according to a
19 plan developed by the State Board, and shall include the information required under the
20 plan developed by the State Board."

21 **SECTION 2.** The State Board, in consultation with the Board of Governors
22 of The University of North Carolina, shall revise the standards for continuing
23 certification so that the portfolio requirement for teachers is no longer required. The
24 standards shall continue to be rigorous and aligned with the State's priorities for
25 improving student achievement.

26 **SECTION 3.** Section 28.19(b) of S.L. 2001-424 is repealed.

27 **SECTION 4.** No new requirement added by the State Board of Education to
28 the teacher certification process as the result of the violation of the rules of the
29 legislature in 2002 may be required for licensure now or in the future without explicit
30 legislative authorization.

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