

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE BILL 563
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/27/05
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/18/05**

Short Title: Comm. Coll. May Train Lateral Entry Teachers. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 10, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT PERMITTING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE
2 COURSEWORK TO PERSONS ENTERING THE TEACHING PROFESSION BY
3 LATERAL ENTRY.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "(c) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to encourage lateral entry into
8 the profession of teaching by skilled individuals from the private sector. To this end,
9 before the 1985-86 school year begins, the State Board of Education shall develop
10 criteria and procedures to accomplish the employment of such individuals as classroom
11 teachers. ~~Regardless of credentials or competence, no one shall begin teaching above~~
12 ~~the middle level of differentiation.~~ Skilled individuals who choose to enter the
13 profession of teaching laterally may be granted a provisional teaching certificate for no
14 more than ~~five~~ three years and shall be required to obtain certification before
15 contracting for a ~~sixth~~ fourth year of service with any local administrative unit in this
16 State.

17 (c1) The State Board of Community Colleges may provide a program of study for
18 lateral entry teachers to complete the coursework necessary to earn a teaching
19 certificate. To this end, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
20 Board of Community Colleges, shall establish a competency-based program of study for
21 lateral entry teachers to be implemented within the Community College System no later
22 than May 1, 2006. This program must meet standards set by the State Board of
23 Education.

24 The State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of Education shall
25 jointly identify the community college courses and the teacher education program
26 courses that are necessary and appropriate for inclusion in the community college
27 program of study for lateral entry teachers. To the extent possible, any courses that must

1 be completed through an approved teacher education program shall be taught on a
2 community college campus or shall be available through distance learning.

3 In order to participate in the community college program of study for lateral entry
4 teachers, an individual must:

5 (1) Hold at least a bachelors degree from a regionally accredited
6 institution of higher education;

7 (2) Have completed the bachelors degree at least five years before
8 undertaking the program of study under this subsection; and

9 (3) Hold a lateral entry teaching certificate and be employed as a teacher
10 in a local school administrative unit.

11 An individual who successfully completes this program of study and meets all other
12 requirements of certification set by the State Board of Education shall be recommended
13 for a North Carolina teaching certificate.

14 (c2) It is further the policy of the State of North Carolina to ensure that local
15 boards of education can provide the strongest possible leadership for schools based
16 upon the identified and changing needs of individual schools. To this end, before the
17 1994-95 school year begins, the State Board of Education shall carefully consider a
18 lateral entry program for school administrators to ensure that local boards of education
19 will have sufficient flexibility to attract able candidates."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115D-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(o) The North Carolina Community College System may offer courses, in
22 accordance with the lateral entry program of study established under
23 G.S. 115C-296(c1), to individuals who choose to enter the teaching profession by lateral
24 entry."

25 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education and the State Board of
26 Community Colleges shall submit a report annually to the Joint Legislative Education
27 Oversight Committee on the lateral entry program.

28 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires July 1,
29 2011.