

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH50595-LE-283 (4/17)

Short Title: Science Education Study/Prof. Development. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative McLawhorn.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DIRECTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE TO STUDY SCIENCE EDUCATION IN GRADES K-EIGHT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly, in an effort to promote effective science education in a student's early educational years, directs the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee to:

- (1) Study the research on inquiry-based learning and the benefits of hands on learning in the classroom, including the use of inquiry to improve student understanding of science concepts and their connections to reading, writing, and math;
- (2) Investigate the criteria for awarding National Science Foundation grants for education and research-based science materials (science kits or modules) developed to improve science learning through inquiry-based instruction;
- (3) Study how the National Science Foundation research-based science materials meet the North Carolina educational standards in science.
- (4) Consider the need to define a science kit as a research-based, National Science Foundation supported science materials unit to ensure that North Carolina's budget funds are being invested in research-based materials;
- (5) Identify internal and external resources available to maximize the benefits and utilization of science kits in North Carolina public schools;

- 1 (6) Study the importance of professional development for teachers using
2 science kits and the quality of professional development offered
3 through internal and external resources such as the Department of
4 Instruction (internal), NC-ISE (external), Teachers and Scientists
5 Collaborating – TASC (external);
6 (7) Study the funding provided for low-wealth and underperforming
7 schools in the use of National Science Foundation supported science
8 kits; and
9 (8) Study any other matters that the Committee deems relevant.

10 The Committee shall report to the General Assembly by the convening of the 2008
11 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly.

12 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
13 Department of Public Instruction the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the
14 2007-2008 fiscal year for the North Carolina Infrastructure for Science Education
15 (NC-ISE). NC-ISE shall use these funds to provide professional development training
16 and continuing support to public school teachers using National Science Foundation
17 research grant approved science module kits to ensure that students receive a quality
18 science education in grades K-8.

19 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.