

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 845

Short Title: NC Healthy Schools. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Harrison, Bradford, McGrady, and Horn (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 13, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT OF 2017.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** This act may be cited as the "North Carolina Healthy Schools Act of  
5 2017."

6 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
7 Article to read:

8 "Article 17A.

9 "Healthy Schools.

10 **"§ 115C-270.1. Legislative findings.**

11 The General Assembly finds the following:

- 12 (1) Children are vulnerable to and may be severely affected by exposure to  
13 chemicals, hazardous waste, and other environmental hazards.  
14 (2) The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that human  
15 exposure to indoor air pollutants can be two to five times and up to 100  
16 times higher than outdoor exposure levels.  
17 (3) Children, teachers, janitors, and other staff members spend a significant  
18 amount of time inside school buildings and are continuously exposed to  
19 chemicals from cleaners, waxes, deodorizers, and other maintenance  
20 products.

21 **"§ 115C-270.2. Use of green cleaning supplies.**

22 (a) When it is economically feasible, all elementary and secondary public schools,  
23 including charter schools established pursuant to G.S. 115C-218.5, and all elementary and  
24 secondary nonpublic schools with 50 or more students shall establish a green cleaning policy  
25 and exclusively purchase and use environmentally sensitive cleaning products pursuant to the  
26 guidelines and specifications established under G.S. 115C-270.3.

27 (b) If adopting a green cleaning policy under this section is not economically feasible, a  
28 public school shall provide, until such time that it is economically feasible, annual written  
29 notification to the Department of Public Instruction on a form provided by the Department that  
30 the development and implementation of a green cleaning policy is not economically feasible.

31 (c) For purposes of this section, adopting a green cleaning policy is not economically  
32 feasible if adopting the policy would result in an increase in the cleaning costs of the school.

33 **"§ 115C-270.3. Green cleaning supply guidelines and specifications.**

34 The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, the  
35 State Board of Education, and a panel of interested stakeholders, including cleaning product



1 industry representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and others, shall establish and amend  
2 on an annual basis guidelines and specifications for healthy and environmentally sensitive  
3 cleaning and maintenance products for use in school facilities. The Department of Public  
4 Instruction shall provide multiple avenues by which cleaning products may be determined to be  
5 environmentally sensitive under the guidelines. Guidelines and specifications may include  
6 implementation practices, including inspection. The completed guidelines and specifications  
7 must be posted on the Department of Public Instruction's Internet Web site.

8 **"§ 115C-270.4. Dissemination to schools.**

9 (a) Upon the completion of the guidelines and specifications under G.S. 115C-270.3,  
10 the Department of Public Instruction shall provide each local board of education, charter  
11 school, and, through the Department of Administration, Division of Nonpublic Education, each  
12 elementary or secondary nonpublic school with 50 or more students in this State with the  
13 guidelines and specifications. Each local board of education shall immediately disseminate the  
14 guidelines and specifications to every public school in its jurisdiction. Local boards of  
15 education, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Division of Nonpublic Education shall  
16 provide ongoing assistance to schools to carry out the requirements of this Article.

17 (b) In the event that the guidelines and specifications under G.S. 115C-270.3 are  
18 updated by the Department of Public Instruction, the Department shall provide the updates to  
19 the Division of Nonpublic Education, each local board of education, and each charter school for  
20 immediate dissemination. Additionally, the Department of Public Instruction shall post all  
21 updated materials on its Internet Web site.

22 **"§ 115C-270.5. Rules.**

23 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this Article."

24 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 "(a1) Healthy and Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning and Maintenance Products. – A  
26 charter school shall be subject to the requirements of Article 17A of this Chapter."

27 **SECTION 4.** Part 4 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is  
28 amended by adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 115C-566.5. Healthy and environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance**  
30 **products.**

31 When it is economically feasible, a nonpublic school with 50 or more students is  
32 encouraged to adopt a green cleaning policy consistent with Article 17A of this Chapter. The  
33 Department of Administration, Division of Nonpublic Education, shall disseminate the  
34 guidelines and specifications for healthy and environmentally sensitive cleaning and  
35 maintenance products for use in school facilities in accordance with G.S. 115C-270.4."

36 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding Article 17A of Chapter 115C of the General  
37 Statutes, as enacted by Section 2 of this act, a school may deplete its existing cleaning and  
38 maintenance supply stocks and implement the new requirements under Article 17A of Chapter  
39 115C of the General Statutes, as enacted by Section 2 of this act, in the procurement cycle for  
40 the following school year.

41 **SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-270.3, as enacted by Section 2 of this  
42 act, the Department of Public Instruction shall establish initial guidelines and specifications  
43 after a review and evaluation of existing research that shall be completed no later than 180 days  
44 after the effective date of this act.

45 **SECTION 7.** No State funds shall be appropriated and no State funds are required  
46 to implement Article 17A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, as enacted by Section 2 of  
47 this act.

48 **SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
49 the 2017-2018 school year.