

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 571
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/6/06**

Short Title: School Counselors & Dropout Prevention/Study.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON
3 THE ROLE SCHOOL COUNSELORS PLAY IN PROVIDING DROPOUT
4 PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN MIDDLE
5 AND HIGH SCHOOL AND ON THE STATE BOARD'S IMPLEMENTATION OF
6 ITS POLICY REGARDING SCHOOL COUNSELORS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Research shows that school counselors can provide effective
9 services to students that encourage them to stay in school, succeed in school, and
10 graduate from high school. Research also shows that middle school is a critical time for
11 students who are at risk of dropping out of school. The General Assembly currently
12 provides funding that local school administrative units may use to hire school
13 counselors; it is unclear, however, what role school counselors play in providing
14 effective and efficient dropout prevention and intervention services to students in
15 middle and high school. The General Assembly needs additional information to
16 determine whether adjustments should be made in funding for school counselors or
17 assignment of duties to school counselors; therefore, the State Board of Education shall
18 report the following information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
19 Committee prior to March 15, 2007.

- 20 (1) The counselor-to-student ratio in schools with a sixth grade or higher
21 grade;
- 22 (2) The source of funds used for each of these counselors;
- 23 (3) A review and analysis of the counselors' primary duties by school;
- 24 (4) A summary and description of school-based dropout prevention and
25 intervention services provided directly to students in the sixth grade
26 and higher grades, including the role of school counselors in providing
27 the services; and
- 28 (5) The number of school counselors and other individuals per local
29 school administrative unit whose primary responsibility is to provide

1 school-based dropout prevention and intervention services and the
2 percentage of their time spent providing these services.

3 **SECTION 2.** The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint
4 Legislative Education Oversight Committee prior to November 1, 2007, on the
5 implementation of State Board Policy QP-C-012, Policy Delineating the Job
6 Description and Performance Criteria for School Counselors.

7 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.