

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS35509-RJz-9 (04/09)

Short Title: Reestablish Com. on Dropout Prevention/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Malone, Dorsett, Queen, Boseman, and Jenkins.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON DROPOUT PREVENTION TO
AWARD ADDITIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION GRANTS, TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS
FOR A CONSULTANT TO STAFF THE COMMITTEE, AS RECOMMENDED
BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION
AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Committee. – The Committee on Dropout Prevention, as established in S.L. 2007-323, Section 7.32(c), is reestablished. The Committee shall be located administratively in the Department of Public Instruction but shall exercise its powers and duties independently of the Department of Public Instruction. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide for the administrative costs of the Committee. The Department of Public Instruction shall contract with an independent consultant to serve as staff to the Committee, to provide technical assistance to the grant recipients for the length of the grant and to assist the Committee in evaluating the impact of the grants awarded.

The Committee shall determine which local school administrative units, schools, agencies, and nonprofits shall receive dropout prevention grants under Section 2 of this act, the amount of each grant, and eligible uses of the grant funding. The Committee shall consist of the following 15 members:

- (1) The Governor shall appoint five members, of whom one is a superintendent of schools, one is a representative of a nonprofit, and one is a school social worker;
- (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint five members, of whom one is a principal, one is a representative of a school of education, and one is a school counselor; and

- 1 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five
2 members, of whom one is a teacher, one is a member of the business
3 community, and one is a representative of the juvenile justice system.

4 The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Committee. The members of the
6 Committee shall assure they are in compliance with laws and rules governing conflicts
7 of interest. The Committee shall meet on the call of the cochairs provided that the
8 Committee shall meet at least once every three months.

9 **SECTION 2.** Dropout Prevention Grants. – The Committee shall select
10 grant recipients from applications received in the process outlined in Section 7.32(d) of
11 S.L. 2007-323. Using the existing grant reviews, the Committee shall establish a cutoff
12 score and award grants to applicants that both meet the cutoff score and did not
13 previously receive funding under S.L. 2007-323.

14 The following criteria apply to dropout prevention grants approved by the
15 Committee established under Section 1 of this act.

- 16 (1) Grants shall be issued in varying amounts up to a maximum of one
17 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).
18 (2) These grants shall be provided to innovative programs and initiatives
19 that target students at risk of dropping out of school and that
20 demonstrate the potential to (i) be developed into effective,
21 sustainable, and coordinated dropout prevention and reentry programs
22 in middle schools and high schools, and (ii) serve as effective models
23 for other programs.
24 (3) Priority shall be given to new programs and initiatives or to those that
25 have begun within the last five school years.
26 (4) Grants shall be distributed geographically throughout the State.
27 (5) Grants may be made to local school administrative units, schools, local
28 agencies, or nonprofit organizations.
29 (6) Grants shall be to programs and initiatives that hold all students to
30 high academic and personal standards.
31 (7) Grant applications shall state (i) how grant funds will be used, (ii)
32 what, if any, other resources will be used in conjunction with the grant
33 funds, (iii) how the program or initiative will be coordinated to
34 enhance the effectiveness of existing programs, initiatives, or services
35 in the community, and (iv) a process for evaluating the success of the
36 program or initiative.
37 (8) Programs and initiatives that receive grants under this subsection shall
38 be based on best practices for preventing students from dropping out of
39 school or for increasing the high school completion rate for those
40 students who already have dropped out of school.
41 (9) Priority for grants shall be given to proposals that demonstrate input
42 from the local community and coordination with other available
43 programs or resources.

1 (10) Grantees shall assure their compliance with applicable laws and rules
2 regulating conflicts of interest.

3 (11) Priority for grants shall be given to programs that would serve students
4 in local school administrative units that have a four-year cohort
5 graduation rate of less than sixty-five percent (65%).

6 (12) Grants shall be made no later than November 1, 2008.

7 The Committee shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout
8 Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
9 Committee on the grants awarded under this act by March 1, 2009.

10 **SECTION 3.** Evaluation. – The Committee shall evaluate the impact of the
11 dropout prevention grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 and under Section 2 of this act.
12 In evaluating the impact of the grants, the Committee shall consider:

13 (1) How grant funds were used, including the services provided for teen
14 pregnancy prevention and for pregnant and parenting teens;

15 (2) What, if any, other resources were used in conjunction with the grant
16 funds;

17 (3) How the program or initiative was coordinated to enhance the
18 effectiveness of existing programs, initiatives, or services in the
19 community;

20 (4) The success of the program or initiative, as indicated by the evaluation
21 process stated in its grant application;

22 (5) The sustainability of the program;

23 (6) The number, gender, ethnicity, and grade level of students being
24 served as well as whether the student left school due to pregnancy or
25 parenting responsibilities.

26 (7) For those grant recipients using money for health education programs,
27 whether those programs include comprehensive sexuality education
28 and medically accurate information about contraceptives, including
29 abstinence.

30 (8) The potential for the program to serve as a model; and

31 (9) Other indicators of the impact of the grant on dropout prevention.

32 The recipients of the dropout prevention grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323
33 shall report to the Committee on Dropout Prevention by January 31, 2009, and by
34 September 30, 2009. The Committee shall make an interim report of the results of its
35 evaluation of the grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 by March 31, 2009, to the Joint
36 Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and to the
37 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall make a final
38 report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under S.L. 2007-323 by
39 November 15, 2009, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and
40 High School Graduation and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

41 The recipients of the dropout prevention grants awarded under Section 2 of
42 this act shall report to the Committee on Dropout Prevention by January 31, 2010, and
43 by September 30, 2010. The Committee shall make an interim report of the results of its
44 evaluation of the grants awarded under Section 2 of this bill by March 31, 2010, to the

1 Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and
2 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall make a
3 final report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under Section 2 of this
4 act by November 15, 2010, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention
5 and High School Graduation and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
6 Committee.

7 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Department of Public Instruction, Committee on Dropout Prevention, the sum of five
9 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to
10 provide for 40 additional dropout prevention grants to be awarded in accordance with
11 Section 2 of this act.

12 **SECTION 5.** Funds appropriated for the dropout prevention grants for the
13 2007-2008 fiscal year shall not revert on December 31, 2008, but shall remain available
14 for expenditure until August 31, 2009. Funds appropriated for the 2008-2009 fiscal
15 year shall not revert on June 30, 2009, but shall remain available for expenditure until
16 August 31, 2010.

17 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Public Instruction, Committee on Dropout Prevention, the sum of one
19 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to issue a request for
20 proposals from qualified vendors on a competitive basis to contract with a consultant to
21 staff the Committee, assist with the evaluation, and provide technical assistance. The
22 factors to be considered in awarding the contract shall be identified in the request for
23 proposals.

24 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.