

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 587
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/28/15
Third Edition Engrossed 4/29/15

Short Title: School Flexibility Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC SCHOOL FLEXIBILITY.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-105.37B is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 "(e) Organizations such as the North Carolina School Boards Association may conduct
6 professional development workshops in each region of the State to provide information on the
7 four school reform models set forth in subsection (a) of this section. In conducting the
8 workshops, organizations are strongly encouraged to place particular emphasis on the restart
9 model in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section that provides local school
10 administrative units with flexibility similar to charter schools with the local board of education
11 maintaining control of the school. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide
12 information and assistance as requested to organizations such as the North Carolina School
13 Boards Association and shall ensure that information and assistance is provided in a timely
14 manner so that such organizations can conduct at least one workshop annually for
15 superintendents and their designees with a goal of providing a series of workshops throughout
16 the year."

17 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-105.25 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 "(d) Organizations such as the North Carolina School Boards Association may conduct
19 professional development workshops in each region of the State that provide information on the
20 budget flexibility provided by this section for differentiated pay and other initiatives to improve
21 student achievement. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide information and
22 assistance as requested to organizations such as the North Carolina School Boards Association
23 and shall ensure that requested information and assistance is provided in a timely manner so
24 that the organizations can conduct at least one workshop annually for superintendents and their
25 designees with a goal of providing a series of workshops throughout the year."

26 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative
27 Education Oversight Committee by November 15, 2015, with recommendations on (i)
28 improving the teacher licensing process in the areas of establishing initial pay for teachers who
29 have been hired but their request for a North Carolina teacher's license has not been processed;
30 (ii) efforts to automate the teacher licensing process; (iii) changes to the lateral entry process
31 for teachers; (iv) whether to accept funds under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary
32 Education Act, 20 U.S.C., Chapter 70, Subchapter II, which impacts the number of highly
33 qualified teachers; and (v) streamlining the teacher licensing process.

34 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

