



HOUSE BILL 135: Technical Changes to Courses of Study Statute.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 14, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Elmore, Johnson, Conrad	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw* Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 135 would repeal G.S. 115C-81, G.S. 115C-81.1, G.S. 115C-81.3, and G.S. 115C-81.4, remove outdated references to the Basic Education Program, and recodify the contents of the repealed statutes into individual statutes based on subject matter.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-81 (Basic Education Program) was enacted in S.L. 1985-479 (the 1985 Budget) as part of a program to "define a common core of knowledge and skills that each student should master prior to graduation from high school." The statute requires the State Board to adopt a "Basic Education Program" for the public schools of the State which describes the education program to be offered to every child in the public schools. In addition to the general requirements for the standard course of study, the statute contains additional provisions related to topics such as alcohol and drug education, school health, civics literacy, and character education.

G.S. 115C-81.1 (Basic Education Program Funds not to supplant Local funds for schools) requires local school administrative units to not supplant additional state funds provided for vocational and technical education programs and clerical personnel positions previously funded in whole or in part with non-state funds.

G.S.115C-81.3 (Instruction in American Sign Language) encourages schools to offer American Sign Language (ASL) classes in high schools as a modern foreign language, and requires certification standards for ASL teachers.

G.S.115C-81.4 requires each local board of education to certify that its high school and middle school science laboratories are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment for students and teachers and ensure that high schools and middle schools comply with all State Board of Education policies related to science laboratory safety.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 135 repeals G.S. 115C-81, G.S. 115C-81.1, G.S. 115C-81.3, and G.S. 115C-81.4 and recodifies the provisions of those statutes into individual statutes based on subject matter. The majority of the statutes are recodified in G.S.115C-81.5 through G.S. 115C-81.85. The recodification separates topics previously organized as subsections in G.S. 115C-81. The bill would also remove references to the Basic Education Plan and replaces that term with the term "standard course of study," and makes conforming changes to other statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 135 would become effective when it becomes law.

**This summary was substantially contributed to by Drupti Chauhan, Committee Counsel.*

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