

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 904\*

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Holt, Kuczmariski (Co-sponsors); H. Hunter, Jeffus, Jenkins, Mitchell, and J. Preston.

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Referred to: Education.

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April 12, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER  
2 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHEN IT ADOPTS RULES SETTING  
3 GRADUATION STANDARDS, AND TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF  
4 EDUCATION TO SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF ANY GRADUATION  
5 STANDARDS ADOPTED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS TO CHILDREN WITH  
6 SPECIAL NEEDS UNTIL IT REEVALUATES THE RULES BASED ON A  
7 STUDY OF GRADUATION STANDARDS AND THESE CHILDREN.  
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9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and  
12 descriptions similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of  
13 study and it shall provide:

- 14 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special  
15 needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the  
16 learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with  
17 discipline and emotional problems;
- 18 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
- 19 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;
- 20 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the  
21 mastery of competencies, including standards for ~~graduation;~~  
22 graduation, that take into account children with special needs and, in  
23 particular, include appropriate modifications;

- 1 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 2 (6) Required support programs;
- 3 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 4 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
- 5 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
- 6 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
- 7 (11) Facilities standards; and
- 8 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

9 Sec. 2. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall  
10 direct the Center for Development Learning in the School of Medicine at the University  
11 of North Carolina to study, and make recommendations concerning, graduation  
12 standards and children with special needs, with a particular focus on appropriate  
13 modifications of these standards for these children. The study shall be conducted within  
14 existing resources of the Board of Governors and shall include a review and evaluation  
15 of other states' graduation standards and how they are modified for these children, the  
16 appropriateness of an alternative diploma for these children, the appropriateness of  
17 course substitutions or waivers for these children, the need for raised expectations for  
18 these children in conjunction with alternative teaching methods, the admissions policies  
19 at the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina as they apply to these  
20 students, and any other issue the Center for Development Learning considers  
21 appropriate. The study shall be completed and a written report filed with the Board of  
22 Governors and the State Board of Education no later than December 15, 1993. Upon its  
23 receipt of the report, the State Board of Education shall file a copy with the chair of the  
24 Commission on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative  
25 Education Oversight Committee.

26 Sec. 3. The effective date of any rule adopted by the State Board of  
27 Education in the past two years that established additional graduation standards is  
28 hereby suspended in its application to children identified as learning disabled. The State  
29 Board of Education may establish a new effective date after it completes its reevaluation  
30 required by Section 4 of this act.

31 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,  
32 and based on its recommendations, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate any  
33 rules it established within the two years before December 15, 1993, that established or  
34 affected graduation requirements, with a particular focus on the Algebra I requirement.  
35 The State Board of Education shall complete its reevaluation and establish any  
36 modifications to these rules on or before March 15, 1994. Upon completion of this  
37 process, the State Board of Education shall file a written report with the chair of the  
38 Commission on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative  
39 Education Oversight Committee no later than April 1, 1994.

40 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.