

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 801
Senate Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 6/5/03**

Short Title: Alternatives to School Competency Test.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 31, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE STATE COMPETENCY TESTING PROGRAM TO
2 ENSURE THAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PASS THE
3 COMPETENCY TEST ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE AN
4 ALTERNATIVE TEST.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-174.11(b) reads as rewritten:

8 "(b) Competency Testing Program.

9 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt tests or other measurement
10 devices which may be used to assure that graduates of the public high
11 schools and graduates of nonpublic schools supervised by the State
12 Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of Part 1 of Article 39
13 of this Chapter possess the skills and knowledge necessary to function
14 independently and successfully in assuming the responsibilities of
15 citizenship.

16 (2) The tests shall be administered annually to all ninth grade students in
17 the public schools. Students who fail to attain the required minimum
18 standard for graduation in the ninth grade shall be given remedial
19 instruction and additional opportunities to take the test up to and
20 including the last month of the twelfth grade. Students who fail to pass
21 parts of the test shall be retested on only those parts they fail. Students
22 in the ninth grade who are enrolled in special education programs or
23 who have been officially designated as eligible for participation in
24 such programs may be excluded from the testing programs.

25 (3) The State Board of Education ~~may develop~~ shall:

26 a. Adopt one or more nationally standardized tests or other
27 nationally standardized equivalent measures that measure
28 competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas; or

1 b. Develop and validate alternate means and standards for
2 demonstrating minimum competence. These standards,
3 which standards must be more as difficult than as the tests
4 adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,
5 subsection.

6 The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy to identify which
7 students and under what circumstances students may pass one of these
8 tests may be passed by students in lieu of the testing requirement of
9 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

10 (3a) Students with disabilities who fail to pass the competency test adopted
11 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection after two attempts shall
12 be given the opportunity to take and pass one of the alternate tests
13 adopted pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection.

14 (4) Repealed by Session Laws 1996, Second Extra Session, c. 18, s.
15 18.14."

16 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.