

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 753\*  
Education/Public Instruction Committee Substitute Adopted 4/26/07**

Short Title: Disability History & Awareness Month. (Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 14, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DISABILITY HISTORY  
2 AND AWARENESS MONTH AND REQUIRING LOCAL BOARDS OF  
3 EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON DISABILITY HISTORY AND  
4 AWARENESS.  
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6 Whereas, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was founded on four  
7 principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of  
8 opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

9 Whereas, the United States Census Bureau reported in 2000 that there were  
10 1,117,577 people with disabilities in the State of North Carolina out of a total  
11 population of 8,046,485; and

12 Whereas, most families are likely to become affected by someone with some  
13 kind of disability; and

14 Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that during the  
15 2003-2004 school year, North Carolina served 193,956 students with disabilities under  
16 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

17 Whereas, research has shown that students with disabilities encounter more  
18 difficulty fitting in with their peers, making friends, and becoming involved in school  
19 and community-based activities and clubs than their nondisabled peers; and

20 Whereas, in order to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities into  
21 society, it is necessary to expand the public's knowledge, awareness, and understanding  
22 of the history of disabilities and the disability rights movement; and

23 Whereas, October is recognized nationally as Disability Employment  
24 Awareness Month; and

25 Whereas, designating Disability History and Awareness Month in North  
26 Carolina will increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities who  
27 comprise a substantial percentage of North Carolina's population, teach future  
28 generations that people with disabilities have a rich history and have made valuable  
29 contributions throughout North Carolina and the United States, and ensure future

1 generations understand that disability is a natural part of life and that people with  
2 disabilities have a right to be treated as individuals above all else; Now, therefore,  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4           **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a  
5 new section to read:

6 **"§ 103-11. Disability History and Awareness Month.**

7           The month of October of each year is designated as Disability History and  
8 Awareness Month in North Carolina."

9           **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-81 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10           "(j) Disability History and Awareness. – Each local board of education shall  
11 provide instruction on disability, people with disabilities, and the disability rights  
12 movement in conjunction with Disability History and Awareness Month, established  
13 pursuant to G.S. 103-11. This instruction shall be incorporated into the standard  
14 curriculum through measures that include: (i) supplementing existing lesson plans, (ii)  
15 holding school assemblies, (iii) hosting disability-focused film festivals, or (iv)  
16 organizing other school activities. Local boards of education are encouraged to  
17 incorporate individuals with disabilities or knowledgeable guest speakers from the  
18 disability community into the delivery of this instruction."

19           **SECTION 3.** The constituent institutions of The University of North  
20 Carolina are encouraged to conduct and promote activities that provide education,  
21 awareness, and understanding of disability history, people with disabilities, and the  
22 disability rights movement.

23           **SECTION 4.** Nothing in this act shall require the General Assembly to  
24 appropriate funds to implement it or require a local school administrative unit to spend  
25 additional funds to implement it. The provisions of this act are not intended to create a  
26 burden, financial or otherwise for public schools, teachers, or State institutions of higher  
27 learning.

28           **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.