

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 315  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/15/17

Short Title: Make Various Changes Regarding Higher Ed.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 20, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO IMPLEMENT THE  
2 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COMPLETION IMPROVEMENT PLAN; TO DIRECT  
3 THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE BOARD OF  
4 GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO DEVELOP AND  
5 IMPLEMENT A SYSTEMWIDE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT FOR THE  
6 TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
7 EDUCATION PROGRAM TO A UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
8 CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION; TO DIRECT THE PRESIDENT, OR THE  
9 PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE, AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE  
10 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO CONSIDER AND EVALUATE THE  
11 FEASIBILITY OF APPLYING FOR AND IMPLEMENTING THE UTEACH  
12 PROGRAM AS PART OF THE CURRICULA OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF  
13 NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
14 THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO SET THE EXPENDITURE  
15 BENCHMARK FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH  
16 CAROLINA AT AN AMOUNT CONSISTENT WITH THE MAXIMUM BENCHMARK  
17 SET FOR CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS; AND TO CHANGE THE DATE BY  
18 WHICH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH  
19 CAROLINA SHALL BEGIN REPORTING ANNUALLY THE NUMBER OF  
20 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL AND  
21 APPLIED FOR ADMISSION TO A CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION.  
22

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
24

25 **PART I. UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COMPLETION**

26 **SECTION 1.(a)** The President of The University of North Carolina shall  
27 implement the University of North Carolina Undergraduate Degree Completion Improvement  
28 Plan, developed in accordance with Section 11.7 of S.L. 2015-241, as amended by Section 11.2  
29 of S.L. 2016-94, and presented to the General Assembly on December 31, 2016, effective  
30 beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.

31 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.  
32

33 **PART II. EARLY EDUCATION ARTICULATION AGREEMENT**

34 **SECTION 2.(a)** By March 1, 2018, the Board of Governors of The University of  
35 North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges shall develop an articulation  
36 agreement for the transfer of credits earned for an associate degree in an early childhood



1 education program at a community college toward a baccalaureate degree in an early childhood  
2 education program at a constituent institution for the purposes of the student obtaining teacher  
3 licensure in the area of Birth through Kindergarten. The articulation agreement shall apply to  
4 all community college campuses and constituent institutions with early childhood education  
5 programs. The articulation agreement may include that the community college student  
6 transferring credit and enrolling in the constituent institution has a minimum grade point  
7 average and a minimum Praxis I score.

8 **SECTION 2.(b)** By April 15, 2018, the Board of Governors of The University of  
9 North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges shall report to the Joint Legislative  
10 Education Oversight Committee on the development of the articulation agreement and the plan  
11 for implementation of the articulation agreement at all community college campuses and  
12 constituent institutions with early childhood education programs. The systemwide articulation  
13 agreement for early childhood education programs entered into between The University of  
14 North Carolina and the Community College System shall apply beginning with the 2018-2019  
15 academic year.

16 **SECTION 2.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.  
17

### 18 **PART III. UNC/UTEACH PROGRAM**

19 **SECTION 3.(a)** The President, or the President's designee, and the Board of  
20 Governors of The University of North Carolina shall jointly consider and evaluate the  
21 feasibility of applying for and implementing the UTEACH program as part of the curricula  
22 offered by the University of North Carolina System.

23 UTEACH is a model program originally developed by the University of Texas at  
24 Austin. It is designed as a secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and  
25 mathematics) teacher preparation program with the goal of attracting high-caliber students,  
26 experienced and successful master teachers, and tenure-track faculty who are interested in  
27 STEM education. The UTEACH program is a course of study that combines the requirements  
28 for rigorous STEM degrees and for secondary teaching certification without adding time or cost  
29 to four-year degrees.

30 **SECTION 3.(b)** In their evaluation of the UTEACH program, the President, or the  
31 President's designee, and the Board of Governors may consider the following:

- 32 (1) How the UTEACH program would match up with the curricula currently  
33 offered through the University of North Carolina System and what  
34 adjustments, if any, would be required for implementation of the UTEACH  
35 program.
- 36 (2) Which constituent institutions and which departments and programs at those  
37 institutions would participate and collaborate in the UTEACH program if it  
38 was implemented.
- 39 (3) The application process and time frame required to develop a UTEACH  
40 program tailored to fit within the curricula of the University of North  
41 Carolina System.
- 42 (4) The cost of implementing and maintaining a UTEACH program and the  
43 alternatives for financing the program.
- 44 (5) Any statutory amendments or other legislative action that would be needed  
45 for the implementation of a UTEACH program.
- 46 (6) Any other issues the President, or the President's designee, and the Board of  
47 Governors deem relevant in their evaluation of the UTEACH program.

48 **SECTION 3.(c)** The President, or the President's designee, and the Board of  
49 Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to the Joint Legislative Education  
50 Oversight Committee by April 1, 2018, their findings and recommendations regarding the

1 feasibility of applying for and implementing the UTEACH program as part of the curricula  
2 offered through the University of North Carolina System.

3 **SECTION 3.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.  
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#### 5 **PART IV. UNC EXPENDITURE BENCHMARKS**

6 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 116-31.10 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 116-31.10. Powers of Board regarding certain purchasing contracts.**

8 (a) Notwithstanding G.S. 143-53.1 or G.S. 143-53(a)(2), the expenditure benchmark for  
9 the President of The University of North Carolina or a special responsibility constituent  
10 institution with regard to competitive bid procedures and the bid value benchmark shall be an  
11 amount not greater than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). The Board shall set the  
12 benchmark for the President and each institution from time to time. In setting an institution's  
13 the benchmark for the President or an institution in accordance with this section, the Board  
14 shall consider the institution's—overall capabilities including staff resources, purchasing  
15 compliance reviews, and audit reports—reports of the President's administrative staff or the  
16 institution. The Board shall also consult with the Director of the Division of Purchase and  
17 Contract and the Director of the Budget prior to setting the benchmark.

18 (b) ~~Each~~ If the President or a constituent institution with has an expenditure benchmark  
19 greater than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
20 (\$250,000), the President or constituent institution shall comply with this subsection for any  
21 purchase greater than the President's or institution's benchmark set by the Board but not greater  
22 than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). This—The President or institution shall submit to  
23 the Division of Purchase and Contract for that Division's approval or other action deemed  
24 necessary by the Division a copy of all offers received and the President's or institution's  
25 recommendation of award or other action. Notice of the Division's decision shall be sent to that  
26 the President or the institution. The President or institution shall then proceed with the award of  
27 contract or other action recommended by the Division."

28 **SECTION 4.(b)** G.S. 143-53.1 reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 143-53.1. Setting of benchmarks; increase by Secretary.**

30 (a) On and after July 1, 2014, the procedures prescribed by G.S. 143-52 with respect to  
31 competitive bids and the bid value benchmark authorized by G.S. 143-53(a)(2) with respect to  
32 rule making by the Secretary of Administration for competitive bidding shall promote  
33 compliance with the principles of procurement efficiency, transparency, and fair competition to  
34 obtain the State's business. For the President of The University of North Carolina or a special  
35 responsibility constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, the benchmark  
36 prescribed in this section is as provided in G.S. 116-31.10. For community colleges, the  
37 benchmark prescribed in this section is as provided in G.S. 115D-58.14.

38 ...."

39 **SECTION 4.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.  
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#### 41 **PART V. REPORTING DATE CHANGE**

42 **SECTION 5.(a)** Section 11.16 of S.L. 2015-241 reads as rewritten:

43 **"EARLY COLLEGE GRADUATES/UNC ADMISSION POLICY**

44 ...

45 "**SECTION 11.16.(b)** Beginning ~~March 1, 2017,~~ September 30, 2017, the Board of  
46 Governors shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
47 regarding the number of students who graduated from a cooperative innovative high school  
48 program with an associate degree and which option was chosen by those students when  
49 applying for admission to a constituent institution.

50 ...."

51 **SECTION 5.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

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2 **PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

3 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.