

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1154
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/14/97

Short Title: Safe School Plans/Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 24, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE SCHOOL PLANS
3 AND TO HOLD PRINCIPALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE SAFETY OF
4 SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
7 Article to read:

8 "ARTICLE 8C.

9 "Local Plans for Maintaining Safe and Orderly Schools.

10 "**§ 115C-105.45. Legislative findings.**

11 The General Assembly finds that all schools should be safe, secure, and orderly. If
12 students are to aim for academic excellence, it is imperative that there is a climate of
13 respect in every school and that every school is free of disruption, drugs, violence, and
14 weapons. All schools must have plans, policies, and procedures for dealing with
15 disorderly and disruptive behavior. All schools and school units must have effective
16 measures for assisting students who are at risk of academic failure or of engaging in
17 disruptive and disorderly behavior.

18 "**§ 115C-105.46. State Board of Education responsibilities.**

19 In order to implement this Article, the State Board of Education:

- 1 (1) Shall adopt guidelines for developing local plans under G.S. 115C-
2 105.47;
- 3 (2) Shall provide, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of The
4 University of North Carolina, ongoing technical assistance to the local
5 school administrative units in the development, implementation, and
6 evaluation of their local plans under G.S. 115C-105.47;
- 7 (3) May require a local board of education to withhold the salary of any
8 administrator or other employee of local school administrative units
9 who delays or refuses to prepare and implement local safe school plans
10 in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.47;
- 11 (4) May revoke the certificate of the superintendent, pursuant to G.S. 115C-
12 274(c), for failure to fulfill the superintendent's duties under a local safe
13 school plan.

14 **"§ 115C-105.47. Local safe school plans.**

15 (a) Each local board of education shall develop a local school administrative unit
16 safe school plan designed to ensure that every school in the local school administrative
17 unit is safe, secure, and orderly, that there is a climate of respect in every school, and that
18 appropriate personal conduct is a priority for all students and all public school personnel.
19 The board shall include parents, the school community, representatives of the
20 community, and others in the development of this plan. The plan may be developed by or
21 in conjunction with other committees.

22 (b) Each plan shall include each of the following components:

- 23 (1) Clear statements of the standard of behavior expected of students at
24 different grade levels and of school personnel and clear statements of
25 the consequences that will result from one or more violations of those
26 standards.
- 27 (2) A clear statement of the responsibility of the superintendent for
28 coordinating the adoption and the implementation of the plan,
29 evaluating principals' performance regarding school safety, monitoring
30 and evaluating the implementation of safety plans at the school-level,
31 and coordinating with local law enforcement and court officials
32 appropriate aspects of implementation of the plan. The statement of
33 responsibility shall provide appropriate disciplinary consequences that
34 may occur if the superintendent fails to carry out these responsibilities,
35 including a reprimand in the superintendent's personnel file and
36 withholding of the superintendent's salary.
- 37 (3) A clear statement of the responsibility of the school principal for
38 restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe, secure, and orderly
39 school environment and of the consequences that may occur if the
40 principal fails to meet that responsibility. The principal's duties shall
41 include exhibiting appropriate leadership for school personnel and
42 students, providing for alternative placements for students who are
43 seriously disruptive, reporting all criminal acts pursuant to G.S. 115C-

1 288(g), and providing appropriate disciplinary consequences for
2 disruptive students. The consequences to the principal that may occur
3 shall include a reprimand in the principal's personnel file, disciplinary
4 proceedings under G.S. 115C-325 for principals who hold career status,
5 and disciplinary proceedings under the principal's contract for principals
6 who are under contract.

7 (4) Clear statements of the roles of other administrators, teachers, and other
8 school personnel in restoring, if necessary, and maintaining a safe,
9 secure, and orderly school environment.

10 (5) Procedures for identifying and serving the needs of students who are at
11 risk of academic failure or of engaging in disruptive or disorderly
12 behavior.

13 (6) Mechanisms for assessing the needs of disruptive and disorderly
14 students, providing them with services to assist them in achieving
15 academically and in modifying their behavior, and removing them from
16 the classroom when necessary.

17 (7) Measurable objectives for improving school safety and order.

18 (8) Measures of the effectiveness of efforts to assist students at risk of
19 academic failure or of engaging in disorderly or disruptive behavior.

20 (9) Professional development clearly matched to the goals and objectives of
21 the plan.

22 (10) A plan to work effectively with local law enforcement officials and
23 court officials to ensure that schools are safe and laws are enforced.

24 (11) A plan to provide access to information to the school community,
25 parents, and representatives of the local community on the ongoing
26 implementation of the local plan, monitoring of the local plan, and the
27 integration of educational and other services for students into the total
28 school program.

29 (12) The name and role description of the person responsible for
30 implementation of the plan.

31 (13) Direction to school improvement teams within the local school
32 administrative unit to consider the special conditions at their schools
33 and to incorporate into their local school improvement plans the
34 appropriate components of the local plan for maintaining safe and
35 orderly schools.

36 (14) Any other information the local board considers necessary or
37 appropriate to implement this Article.

38 (c) Upon its approval of the plan developed under this section, the local board
39 shall submit the plan to the State Board of Education for its review and comments. The
40 local board shall consider the comments it receives from the State Board before it
41 implements the plan.

1 (d) The local board may amend the plan as often as it considers necessary or
2 appropriate. Any changes to a plan may be submitted to the State Board of Education for
3 its review and comments."

4 Section 2. The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to reward school
5 principals for improving school safety and school climate. The Board shall report this
6 plan, along with any recommended statutory changes, to the Joint Legislative Education
7 Oversight Committee by April 15, 1998.

8 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
9 Education the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the
10 sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal year for the development
11 of guidelines for local safe school plans and for providing technical assistance to local
12 school administrative units, in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.46, as enacted in Section
13 1 of this act.

14 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997. Local boards of education
15 shall begin implementation of local safe school plans developed under Section 1 of this
16 act by the beginning of the 1998-99 school year.