

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 503

Short Title: Age/Eligibility/NC Schools for the Deaf.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Swindell.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 24, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO UPDATE THE LAWS RELATING TO THE ATTENDANCE AGES
AND ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS FOR
THE DEAF.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 143B-216.41 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-216.41. Pupils admitted; education.

The Department of Health and Human Services ~~shall~~shall, according to such reasonable regulations as ~~prescribed by the Board of Directors~~may prescribe, Superintendent of the Office of Education Services, on application, receive into the schools for the purposes of education all ~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind children ~~resident who: (i) have been referred by their local education agencies and meet the criteria for admission; (ii) are residents of the State who~~resident who: (i) have been referred by their local education agencies and meet the criteria for admission; (ii) are residents of the State who State; and (iii) are from age five through age 20 years: ~~Provided, that the Department of Health and Human Services may admit students who are not within the age limits set forth above when in its judgment, such admission will be in the best interests of the applicant and the facilities of the school permit such admission.~~21 years. Only those who are bona fide citizens or residents of North Carolina shall be eligible to and entitled to receive free tuition and maintenance. The Department may fix charges and the Board of Directors Superintendent of the Office of Education Services may prescribe rules whereby nonresident ~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind children may be admitted, but in no event shall the admission of nonresidents in any way prevent the attendance of any eligible ~~deaf child, deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf/blind child who is a~~deaf child, deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf/blind child who is a resident of North Carolina. The Department shall provide for the instruction of all pupils in the branches of study now prescribed by law for the public schools of the State and in ~~such any~~any other branches as may be of special benefit to the ~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind~~deaf-deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind.

The Department shall encourage the State to provide the classrooms with modern auditory training equipment, audiovisual media equipment, and any other special

1 equipment to provide the best educational conditions for the ~~deaf-deaf, hard of hearing,~~
2 and deaf/blind. The Department shall provide a teacher training program in the State.
3 The Department shall provide for a comprehensive vocational and technical training
4 program for ~~boys and girls~~students as may be useful to them in making themselves
5 self-supporting."

6 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.