

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 931**

Short Title: No Portfolio Required/Teacher Certification. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Shubert; and Brock.

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Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

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April 3, 2003

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER  
3 CERTIFICATION.

4 Whereas, the Senate in 2002 voted to end the use of portfolios for teacher  
5 certification; and

6 Whereas, the House in 2002, after extended debate, voted overwhelmingly to  
7 support the Senate action and end the use of portfolios for teacher certification; and

8 Whereas, contrary to the Rules of the Legislature, the votes of the majority of  
9 the Senators and Representatives were ignored; and

10 Whereas, the ban on portfolios was replaced with a suspension until June 30,  
11 2004, and a study so that the proponents of placing needless burdens on teachers (the  
12 minority in the legislature) could devise new terms other than "portfolio" to impose  
13 alternative burdens (rejected by the majority in the legislature); and

14 Whereas, the results of the "study" appear to reflect the predominance of  
15 portfolio supporters among those chosen by the portfolio proponents in the Department  
16 of Public Instruction to conduct the "study", and lack validity both because the "study"  
17 was not properly authorized and because the requirements appear to increase burdens on  
18 teachers, contrary to the expressed wishes of the legislature; and

19 Whereas, actions of the portfolio proponents in enacting the suspension and  
20 the "study" are ample evidence of their disregard for the legislature, the legislative  
21 process, and the overwhelming majority of teachers and principals who opposed  
22 portfolios; and

23 Whereas, to permit such action to stand undermines both the rule of law and  
24 respect for the legislative process; Now, therefore,  
25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-296(b) reads as rewritten:

27 "(b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality  
28 teacher education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the  
29 competence of professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that

1 teacher preparation programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study,  
2 the State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination and cooperation with the  
3 University Board of Governors, the Board of Community Colleges and such other  
4 public and private agencies as are necessary, shall continue to refine the several  
5 certification requirements, standards for approval of institutions of teacher education,  
6 standards for institution-based innovative and experimental programs, standards for  
7 implementing consortium-based teacher education, and standards for improved  
8 efficiencies in the administration of the approved programs. The certification program  
9 shall provide for initial certification after completion of preservice training, continuing  
10 certification after three years of teaching experience, and certificate renewal every five  
11 years thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last certificate renewal received  
12 prior to retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement.

13 The State Board of Education, as lead agency in coordination with the Board of  
14 Governors of The University of North Carolina and any other public and private  
15 agencies as necessary, shall continue to raise standards for entry into teacher education  
16 programs.

17 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The  
18 University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for  
19 continuing certification. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for  
20 continuing certification and to the extent possible shall be aligned with quality  
21 professional development programs that reflect State priorities for improving student  
22 achievement. These rigorous standards shall not include a portfolio requirement for  
23 teachers.

24 The State Board of Education, in consultation with local boards of education and the  
25 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall reevaluate and enhance  
26 the requirements for renewal of teacher certificates. The State Board shall consider  
27 modifications in the certificate renewal achievement and to make it a mechanism for  
28 teachers to renew continually their knowledge and professional skills. The State Board  
29 shall adopt new standards for the renewal of teacher certificates by May 15, 1998.

30 The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require that  
31 teacher education programs for students who do not major in special education include  
32 demonstrated competencies in the identification and education of children with learning  
33 disabilities. The State Board of Education shall incorporate the criteria developed in  
34 accordance with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator  
35 Training Program into its school administrator program approval standards.

36 All North Carolina institutions of higher education that offer teacher education  
37 programs, masters degree programs in education, or masters degree programs in school  
38 administration shall provide performance reports to the State Board of Education. The  
39 performance reports shall follow a common format, shall be submitted according to a  
40 plan developed by the State Board, and shall include the information required under the  
41 plan developed by the State Board."

42 **SECTION 2.** The State Board, in consultation with the Board of Governors  
43 of The University of North Carolina, shall revise the standards for continuing  
44 certification so that the portfolio requirement for teachers is no longer required. The

1 standards shall continue to be rigorous and aligned with the State's priorities for  
2 improving student achievement.

3           **SECTION 3.** Section 28.19(b) of S.L. 2001-424 is repealed.

4           **SECTION 4.** No new requirement added by the State Board of Education to  
5 the teacher certification process as the result of the violation of the rules of the  
6 legislature in 2002 may be required for licensure now or in the future without explicit  
7 legislative authorization.

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