

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 571**

Short Title: School Counselors & Dropout Prevention/Study. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Swindell; Albertson, Allran, Atwater, Bingham, Clodfelter, Dannelly, Dorsett, Garwood, Jenkins, Kinnaird, Lucas, Malone, Rand, Soles, Stevens, Thomas, and Tillman.

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Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

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March 16, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON  
2 THE ROLE SCHOOL COUNSELORS PLAY IN PROVIDING DROPOUT  
3 PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN MIDDLE  
4 AND HIGH SCHOOL.  
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Research shows that school counselors can provide effective  
8 services to students that encourage them to stay in school, succeed in school, and  
9 graduate from high school. Research also shows that middle school is a critical time for  
10 students who are at risk of dropping out of school. The General Assembly currently  
11 provides funding that local school administrative units may use to hire school  
12 counselors; it is unclear, however, what role school counselors play in providing  
13 effective and efficient dropout prevention and intervention services to students in  
14 middle and high school. The General Assembly needs additional information to  
15 determine whether adjustments should be made in funding for school counselors or  
16 assignment of duties to school counselors; therefore, the State Board of Education shall  
17 report the following information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
18 Committee prior to March 15, 2006:

- 19 (1) The number of school counselors per school with a sixth grade or  
20 higher grade;  
21 (2) The source of funds used for each of these counselors;  
22 (3) A review and analysis of the counselors' primary duties by school;  
23 (4) A summary and description of school-based dropout prevention and  
24 intervention services provided directly to students in the sixth grade  
25 and higher grades, including the role of school counselors in providing  
26 the services; and

1           (5)    The number of school counselors and other individuals per local  
2                school administrative unit whose primary responsibility is to provide  
3                school-based dropout prevention and intervention services and the  
4                percentage of their time spent providing these services.

5           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.