

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 878

Short Title: Study Raising the Compulsory Attendance Age. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Garrou; Atwater, Dalton, Garwood, Goodall, Purcell, Snow, and Swindell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 23, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT DIRECTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED TO RAISE THE COMPULSORY
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall perform a comprehensive study of the need to raise the compulsory school attendance age. In the course of the study, the Committee shall consider:

- (1) The impact of dropping out on the student;
- (2) The capacity of a 16-year-old to understand the social and economic consequences of dropping out of school;
- (3) The emergence of major high school reform efforts, including Learn and Earn Programs, the New Schools Initiative, and 21st Century Schools, and the impact they may have on teenagers who remain in school longer;
- (4) The importance to the entire State of every student leaving high school prepared to enter the workforce or succeed in higher education;
- (5) Research on factors related to students' success in school;
- (6) Strategies, programs, and support services that should be provided if the compulsory school attendance age is raised to enable students to graduate from high school; and time lines for implementing those strategies, programs, and support services;
- (7) Related laws and policies that must be addressed to ensure the availability of support services for students;
- (8) The fiscal impact of raising the compulsory attendance age;
- (9) The law in other states and the experience of other states that have raised the compulsory school attendance age; and

1 (10) Input from school personnel and from dropouts and students at risk of
2 dropping out on the issue.

3 The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall report the results
4 of its study and its recommendations to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005 General
5 Assembly.

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