

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 1246

Short Title: Bd. of Govs. Study College Admissions Measures. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Arnold.

Referred to: Education.

April 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
3 NORTH CAROLINA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF
4 EDUCATION AND THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TO
5 STUDY THE MEASURES USED FOR ADMISSIONS, PLACEMENT, AND
6 ADVANCED PLACEMENT DECISIONS BY THE CONSTITUENT
7 INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Board of Governors of The University of North
10 Carolina, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of
11 Community Colleges, shall study the measures used by the constituent institutions to
12 make admissions, placement, and advanced placement decisions regarding incoming
13 freshman, and shall assess the various uses made of those measures and the validity of
14 those measures with regard to a student's academic performance and as predictors of a
15 student's future academic performance. They shall also assess whether other alternative
16 measures may be equally valid or more accurate as indicators of a student's academic
17 performance. In the study, particular emphasis shall be focused on eliminating or
18 reducing the emphasis placed on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and ACT
19 Assessment for North Carolina students as a mandatory university admissions measure
20 and instead incorporating the State's end-of-course testing into admissions, placement,
21 and advanced placement decisions. Based on its findings, the Board of Governors of
22 The University of North Carolina, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and
23 the State Board of Community Colleges, shall develop a plan to improve the measures
24 used to assess a student's academic performance, to adopt alternative measures, or to use
25 various combinations of both to determine more accurately a student's academic
26 knowledge and performance.

27 **SECTION 1.(b)** The study and plan required by subsection 1(a) of this act
28 shall address all of the following:

1 (1) Admissions. – The Board of Governors shall examine the key elements
2 used for making admissions decisions in the State's University System.
3 Included in the factors to be studied are grade point average, class rank
4 and the SAT and ACT Assessment. Each element shall be studied for
5 reliability and validity independently and as used together. The Board
6 of Governors shall also compare the State's end-of-course testing with
7 the SAT and ACT Assessment, assess how each reflects a student's
8 academic performance, and consider shifting the emphasis currently
9 placed on the SAT and ACT Assessment as an admissions measure to
10 the State's end-of-course testing as an admissions measure. In its study,
11 the Board of Governors shall consider eliminating or reducing the
12 emphasis placed on the SAT and ACT Assessment as an admissions
13 measure for North Carolina students applying to the State's constituent
14 institutions, but continuing to offer the SAT and ACT Assessment in
15 high school for those students who plan to apply to universities or
16 colleges where those tests are required as part of the application
17 process. The Board of Governors shall also consider methods for
18 accurately comparing the academic performance of nonresident
19 applicants who do not have the benefit of the State's end-of-course
20 testing scores with resident applicants who do have those scores.

21 A plan shall be developed to improve the consistency and fairness
22 of each measure independently and as used together for admissions
23 decisions. The use of North Carolina end-of-course tests as an element
24 in admissions decisions and the reduction of the weight of emphasis on
25 the SAT and ACT Assessment shall be part of the plan.

26 The Board of Governors shall work with the State Board of
27 Education to design a plan that incorporates end-of-course testing as
28 part of the admissions process. A plan shall be developed by the State
29 Board of Education to improve the alignment of end-of-course tests
30 and secondary coursework with the expectations of the constituent
31 institutions and the State Board of Community Colleges.

32 (2) Placement. – The Board of Governors shall review the assessment
33 methods currently used by constituent institutions for remediation
34 placement decisions. A plan shall be developed to provide greater
35 consistency, reliability, and validity for remediation decisions. North
36 Carolina end-of-course tests shall be considered for use in these
37 decisions.

38 (3) Advanced placement testing. – The Board of Governors shall develop
39 and implement a plan for the consistent use of Advanced Placement
40 Test scores in granting college-level course credit by constituent
41 institutions.

42 (4) Other relevant issues. – The Board of Governors may study any other
43 issues relevant to college and university admissions, placement, and
44 advanced placement measures.

1 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Board of Governors shall make an interim report
2 regarding its studies and plans to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
3 no later than March 1, 2002, and shall submit a final report to the Joint Legislative
4 Commission on Education by December 1, 2003. Interim and final reports of the
5 Commission may include recommended legislation.

6 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.