

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 42
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/18/09

Short Title: Science Safety in the Public Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 4, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT SCIENCE SAFETY MEASURES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5 section to read:

6 "§ 115C-81.4. Science safety requirements.

7 (a) Prior to July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, each local board of education shall
8 certify to the State Board of Education that its high school and middle school science
9 laboratories are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment for students and
10 teachers.

11 (b) Each local board of education shall ensure that its high schools and middle schools
12 comply with all State Board of Education policies related to science laboratory safety."

13 SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-296(b) reads as rewritten:

14 "(b) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to maintain the highest quality teacher
15 education programs and school administrator programs in order to enhance the competence of
16 professional personnel certified in North Carolina. To the end that teacher preparation
17 programs are upgraded to reflect a more rigorous course of study, the State Board of Education,
18 as lead agency in coordination and cooperation with the University Board of Governors, the
19 Board of Community Colleges and such other public and private agencies as are necessary,
20 shall continue to refine the several certification requirements, standards for approval of
21 institutions of teacher education, standards for institution-based innovative and experimental
22 programs, standards for implementing consortium-based teacher education, and standards for
23 improved efficiencies in the administration of the approved programs. The certification
24 program shall provide for initial certification after completion of preservice training, continuing
25 certification after three years of teaching experience, and certificate renewal every five years
26 thereafter, until the retirement of the teacher. The last certificate renewal received prior to
27 retirement shall remain in effect for five years after retirement.

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

31 The State Board of Education, in consultation with local boards of education and the Board
32 of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and modify, as necessary, the
33 academic requirements for students preparing to teach science in middle and high schools to
34 ensure that there is adequate preparation in issues related to science laboratory safety.

35 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The
36 University of North Carolina, shall evaluate and develop enhanced requirements for continuing
37 certification. The new requirements shall reflect more rigorous standards for continuing



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1 certification and to the extent possible shall be aligned with quality professional development
2 programs that reflect State priorities for improving student achievement.

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

9 The standards for approval of institutions of teacher education shall require that teacher
10 education programs for all students include demonstrated competencies in (i) the identification
11 and education of children with disabilities and (ii) positive management of student behavior
12 and effective communication techniques for defusing and deescalating disruptive or dangerous
13 behavior. The State Board of Education shall incorporate the criteria developed in accordance
14 with G.S. 116-74.21 for assessing proposals under the School Administrator Training Program
15 into its school administrator program approval standards.

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

21 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-521 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

22 "(c1) No local board of education shall begin construction of any new middle or high
23 school building until the plans for the science areas of the building have been reviewed and
24 approved to meet accepted safety standards for school laboratories, preparation rooms, and
25 stockrooms. The review and approval of the plans may be done by the State Board of
26 Education or by any other entity that is licensed or authorized by the State Board to do so."

27 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.