

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 1249*

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

Sponsors: Senators Davis; Atwater, Bingham, Blue, Boseman, Dorsett, Foriest, Graham, Jenkins, Jones, McKissick, Queen, Snow, Stevens, Swindell, and Tillman.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACTS OF RAISING THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM SIXTEEN TO SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The State Board of Education shall establish a Blue Ribbon Task Force to study the impacts of raising the compulsory public school attendance age prior to completion of a high school diploma from 16 to 17 or 18. In its study, the Board of Governors shall consider all of the following:

- (1) What impacts, including fiscal impacts, has raising the compulsory school attendance age had in states which have raised the compulsory school attendance age in the last 15 years.
- (2) What conclusions can be drawn as to the impact the compulsory school attendance age has made in the dropout and high school completion rates for states who require compulsory school attendance to ages 16, 17, and 18, respectively.
- (3) What best practices for working with at-risk populations of students who remain in school have been employed in states that have raised the compulsory attendance age in the last 15 years.
- (4) What would be the fiscal impact in raising the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 17 and 16 to 18, respectively, for each local administrative school unit in North Carolina.

SECTION 2. No later than November 15, 2010, the State Board of Education shall submit a report of its study to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, including its findings and recommendations.

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.

