

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 98

Short Title: No Adult Left Behind. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

February 11, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE "NO ADULT LEFT BEHIND" INITIATIVE TO EXPAND
3 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING ADULTS AND ACHIEVE
4 STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND APPROPRIATING
5 FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly finds that:

- 8 (1) No initiative could be undertaken by higher education that offers greater
9 potential for a positive impact on workforce and economic development than
10 the continued education of the adult citizens of this State.
11 (2) The State's Commission on Workforce Development is instrumental in the
12 economy of the State, and its collaboration with the State's institutions of
13 higher education could greatly benefit adults in need of additional
14 educational opportunities and job training.
15 (3) There are community-based nonprofit organizations around the State that
16 successfully increase access and foster success for working adults and other
17 nontraditional students. These resources, when coordinated on a statewide
18 level, could greatly benefit working adults and their families to achieve their
19 economic goals.

20 **SECTION 2.** The Commission on Workforce Development, acting as the lead
21 agency, with the cooperation of other participating agencies, including the Department of
22 Labor, the Department of Commerce, the Employment Security Commission, the North
23 Carolina Community College System, and The University of North Carolina shall initiate the
24 "No Adult Left Behind" Initiative ("Initiative") geared toward achievement of major statewide
25 workforce development goals. The Initiative may also include community-based nonprofit
26 organizations that provide services or assistance in the areas of worker training, development,
27 and transitioning between industries in the current global labor market.

28 **SECTION 3.(a)** The first goal of the Initiative is to increase dramatically to forty
29 percent (40%) the percentage of North Carolinians who earn associate degrees, other two-year
30 educational credentials, and baccalaureate degrees. Specific fields of study may be selected for
31 the most intense efforts. The Commission on Workforce Development shall, as the lead agency
32 along with the North Carolina Community College System and The University of North
33 Carolina as key cooperating institutions, do all of the following:

- 34 (1) Collaborate to provide model evening-weekend certificate and degree
35 programs designed specifically for working adults and other nontraditional
36 students.



- 1 (2) Work together to promote systemic changes designed to increase access and
2 foster success among adult workers and other nontraditional students.
3 (3) Make it a priority to provide model evening-weekend certificate and degree
4 programs in high-demand disciplines, occupations, and fields closely linked
5 to economic development or that are the focus of public initiatives.

6 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Commission on Workforce Development and the other lead
7 participating institutions may enter into contracts with other qualified organizations, especially
8 community-based nonprofits, to carry out components of the Initiative set forth in subsection
9 (a) of this section.

10 **SECTION 3.(c)** The Workforce Development Commission shall submit to the
11 Governor and to the General Assembly by March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, details of its
12 plan to implement this act that shall include at least the following:

- 13 (1) Goals and objectives for the year toward implementation of this act.
14 (2) An assessment of current adult educational programs to expand economic
15 opportunities for adult workers as outlined by this act.
16 (3) Recommendations for policy, program, or funding changes to effectuate the
17 workforce development, adult education, and economic development goals
18 set forth in this act.

19 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Commission on
20 Workforce Development the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal
21 year and the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to
22 implement the "No Adult Left Behind" Initiative as established by this act.

23 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.