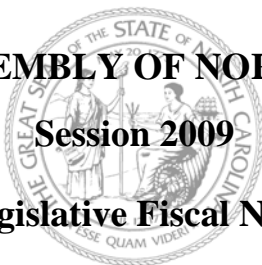


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 65 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Students Under 16 May Attend Comm. College.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Tolson, McLawhorn, Stam, and Wiley

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (x)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES					
General Fund:	There is a fiscal impact, but it is not possible to determine the amount.				
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	NC Community College System				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	When it becomes law.				

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 65 amends Section 4 of SL 2001-312, as amended, to reenact, effective March 1, 2009, the statute authorizing intellectually gifted students less than 16 years of age to attend community college. Under current law, the authorization expired September 1, 2008. HB 65 also makes the following changes to the original intellectually gifted students program:

- Clarifies the parameters of re-enacted GS 115D-1.1 authorizing intellectually gifted students less than 16 years of age to attend community college.
- Amends GS 115D-1.1, as re-enacted, to provide that a student who is 14 or 15 years old (was, under the age of 16) may enroll in a community college subject to the finding by the president of a community college or the president’s designee that the student meets the prescribed criteria and that the student receives approval for enrollment from (1) the student’s local board of education or the board’s designee, (2) the administrator or designee of the nonpublic school the student attends, (3) the person who provides the academic instruction in the home school the student attends, (4) the designee of the

- board of directors of the charter school the student attends, or (5) the administrator of the college or university where the student is enrolled.
- Additionally, provides that despite provisions of GS 115D-1.2 requiring an enrollee in a Learn and Earn Online course (L&E) through a community college to be in one of the grades from 9 through 12, a student under the age of 14 may enroll in a L&E course through a community college for college credit if one of the persons identified in items one through four above approves the student's enrollment.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

To estimate the cost of HB 65, one would need both the number of students that would participate, and the cost of each of those students. Unfortunately, there is not enough data to make those assumptions.

Number of Students

If HB 65 v2 were enacted, the students ages 14 and 15 would be allowed to return to the college campuses. Students under age 14 would only be permitted to enroll in Learn and Earn Online.

In FY 2007-08, 14 students participated in the Intellectually Gifted and Mature Students program. Of those, 6 were under 14 and 8 were either 14 or 15.

While it would be safe to assume that the number of 14- and 15-year olds attending courses on campus would not change dramatically, it is likely that allowing students under age 14 to participate in Learn and Earn Online could increase the number of students willing and able to participate – perhaps dramatically. For example, parents that may have been hesitant to permit their child to attend courses on a community college campus (or who were unable to accompany their child to class, as was required by the Operating Procedures for the Enrollment of High School Students in Community College Courses), may be more comfortable with their child enrolling online. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the number of students that may participate in this program.

Cost of Students

The NC Community College System Office did not keep track of the number of courses that the Intellectually Gifted and Mature Students enrolled in. It also does not seem to be a reasonable assumption that these students take the same number of courses as the average community college student, because they are so unlike the average student. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the cost per student for those ages 14 and 15. *However, it is important to note that unlike most programs for high school-aged individuals, Intellectually Gifted and Mature Students are required to pay their tuition and fees.*

The System Office does track the cost per student of Learn and Earn Online courses. Based on the Fall 2008 Learn and Earn Online data, the typical LEO student takes 4 credit hours per term. Based on the FTE reimbursement rate of \$152.28 per credit hour for Learn and Earn Online (\$4,872.90 per FTE divided by 32 credit hours per FTE), the average cost of a Learn and Earn Online student is \$609 per semester or \$1,218 per year. *It is important to note that this bill does*

not require students under 14 who would now enroll in Learn and Earn Online to pay for their tuition and fees. Thus, the State would absorb the full cost of their courses.

SOURCES OF DATA:

NC Community College System Office

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices