

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 751

Short Title: Career and College Ready/High School Grads. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell, Horn, and Johnson (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12

April 13, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
3 ENDORSEMENT TO DEMONSTRATE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF READING
4 ACHIEVEMENT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(40) reads as rewritten:

7 "(40) To Establish High School Diploma Endorsements. – The State Board of
8 Education shall establish, implement, and determine the impact of adding (i)
9 college, (ii) career, and (iii) college and career endorsements to high school
10 diplomas to encourage students to obtain requisite job skills necessary for
11 that student to be successful in a wide range of high-quality careers and to
12 reduce the need for remedial education in institutions of higher education.
13 These endorsements shall reflect courses completed, overall grade point
14 average, reading achievement, and other criteria as developed by the State
15 Board of Education. For the purposes of awarding any of the high school
16 diploma endorsements, the State Board shall require students to have
17 received on a nationally norm-referenced college admissions test for reading,
18 either administered under G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) or as an alternative
19 nationally norm-referenced college admissions test approved by the State
20 Board, at least the benchmark score established by the testing organization
21 that represents the level of achievement required for students to have
22 approximately a fifty percent (50%) chance of obtaining a grade B or higher
23 or a seventy-five percent (75%) chance of obtaining a grade C or higher in a
24 corresponding credit-bearing first-year college course. A student may retake
25 a nationally norm-referenced test as many times as necessary to achieve the
26 required benchmark score for reading in order to receive a high school
27 diploma endorsement prior to the student's exit from high school. The State
28 Board of Education shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education
29 Oversight Committee on (i) the impact of awarding these endorsements on
30 high school graduation, college acceptance and remediation, and post-high
31 school employment ~~rates-rates~~, (ii) the number of students who had to retake
32 a nationally norm-referenced college admissions test to meet the reading
33 benchmark score required by this subdivision, and (iii) the number of
34 students who were not awarded a high school diploma endorsement solely



1 because of the inability to meet the benchmark score for reading as required
2 by this subdivision."

3 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
4 high school diploma endorsements awarded in the 2018-2019 school year.