

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 751
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/25/17

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

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

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 AND TO REQUIRE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
5 INSTRUCTION TO STUDY BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE STUDENTS COMPLETE
6 HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE NECESSARY LITERACY SKILLS FOR CAREER AND
7 COLLEGE READINESS.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

10 "(40) To Establish High School Diploma Endorsements. – The State Board of
11 Education shall establish, implement, and determine the impact of adding (i)
12 college, (ii) career, and (iii) college and career endorsements to high school
13 diplomas to encourage students to obtain requisite job skills necessary for
14 that student to be successful in a wide range of high-quality careers and to
15 reduce the need for remedial education in institutions of higher education.
16 These endorsements shall reflect courses completed, overall grade point
17 average, reading achievement, and other criteria as developed by the State
18 Board of Education. A student shall only receive a high school diploma
19 endorsement if that student receives on a nationally norm-referenced college
20 admissions test for reading, either administered under
21 G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) or as an alternative nationally norm-referenced
22 college admissions test approved by the State Board, at least the benchmark
23 score established by the testing organization that represents the level of
24 achievement required for students to have approximately a fifty percent
25 (50%) chance of obtaining a grade B or higher or a seventy-five percent
26 (75%) chance of obtaining a grade C or higher in a corresponding
27 credit-bearing first-year college course. A student may retake a nationally
28 norm-referenced test as many times as necessary to achieve the required
29 benchmark score for reading in order to receive a high school diploma
30 endorsement prior to the student's graduation. The State Board of Education
31 shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
32 on (i) the impact of awarding these endorsements on high school graduation,
33 college acceptance and remediation, and post-high school employment
34 rates-rates, (ii) the number of students who had to retake a nationally
35 norm-referenced college admissions test to meet the reading benchmark
36 score required by this subdivision to receive a high school diploma



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1 endorsement, and (iii) the number of students who were not awarded a high
2 school diploma endorsement solely because of the inability to meet the
3 benchmark score for reading as required by this subdivision."

4 **SECTION 2.** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall study and make
5 recommendations on best practices for public schools in the State to improve reading
6 comprehension, understanding, and application for students in grades four through 12 to ensure
7 that students complete high school with literacy skills necessary for career and college
8 readiness. The study shall include recommendations on appropriate methods to monitor student
9 progress and provide appropriate and timely remediation to students to ensure success on
10 nationally norm-referenced college admissions tests. The Superintendent may appoint an
11 advisory group to assist and advise in this study that may include superintendents, principals,
12 reading instructors, representatives from research institutions, and other individuals as
13 determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent may contract with an independent
14 research organization from funds available to the Department of Public Instruction to assist in
15 the study. The Superintendent shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
16 Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives, and the State Board of Education on the study, including any findings and
18 recommendations, no later than January 15, 2019. The State Board of Education may use the
19 findings and recommendations to inform the Board's policies and may submit additional
20 comments on the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the President
21 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than
22 February 15, 2019.

23 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
24 high school diploma endorsements awarded in the 2019-2020 school year.