

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 848

Short Title: School Energy Savings Act of 2017. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative R. Moore.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 13, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL SYSTEMS DERIVE SIXTY PERCENT OF THEIR
ENERGY NEEDS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-521 reads as rewritten:

§ 115C-521. Erection of school buildings.

...

(c) The building of all new school buildings and the repairing of all old school buildings shall be under the control and direction of, and by contract with, the board of education for which the building and repairing is done. If a board of education is considering building a new school building to replace an existing school building, the board shall not invest any construction money in the new building unless it submits to the State Superintendent and the State Superintendent submits to the North Carolina Historical Commission an analysis that compares the costs and feasibility of building the new building and of renovating the existing building and that clearly indicates the desirability of building the new building. No board of education shall invest any money in any new building until it has (i) developed plans based upon a consideration of the State Board's facilities guidelines, (ii) submitted these plans to the State Board for its review and comments, and (iii) reviewed the plans based upon a consideration of the comments it receives from the State Board. No local board of education shall contract for more money than is made available for the erection of a new building. However, this subsection shall not be construed so as to prevent boards of education from investing any money in buildings that are being constructed pursuant to a continuing contract of construction as provided for in G.S. 115C-441(c). All contracts for buildings shall be in writing and all buildings shall be inspected, received, and approved by the local superintendent and the architect before full payment is made therefor. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit boards of education from repairing and altering buildings with the help of janitors and other regular employees of the board.

In the design and construction of new school buildings and in the renovation of existing school buildings that are required to be designed by an architect or engineer under G.S. 133-1.1, the local board of education shall participate in the planning and review process of the Energy Guidelines for School Design and Construction that are developed and maintained by the Department of Public Instruction and shall adopt local energy-use goals for building design and operation that take into account local conditions in an effort to reduce the impact of operation costs on local and State budgets. In the design and construction of new school facilities and in the repair and renovation of existing school facilities, the local board of



1 education shall consider the placement and design of windows to use the climate of North
2 Carolina for both light and ventilation in case of power shortages. A local board shall also
3 ~~consider the installation of solar energy systems in the school facilities whenever~~
4 ~~practicable.~~ develop a plan to ensure that sixty percent (60%) of the energy needs of new
5 schools placed into service on or after January 1, 2030, shall be met from renewable energy.
6 The local board may enter into contracts or leases with providers of renewable energy or
7 renewable energy equipment to assist the board in meeting the renewable energy requirement
8 set forth in the preceding sentence. For purposes of this subsection, renewable energy shall
9 mean energy derived from a renewable energy resource, as that term is defined in
10 G.S. 62-133.8.

11 In the case of any school buildings erected, repaired, or equipped with any money loaned or
12 granted by the State to any local school administrative unit, no board of education shall invest
13 any money until it has (i) developed plans based upon a consideration of the State Board's
14 facilities guidelines, (ii) submitted these plans to the State Board for its review and comments,
15 and (iii) reviewed the plans based upon a consideration of the comments it receives from the
16 State Board.

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18 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.