

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H.B. 172  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH20002-MV-30

Short Title: K-12 Academic Freedom. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Speciale and Howard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY OF  
3 ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(46) Duty to Ensure Academic Freedom. – The State Board of Education shall  
7 adopt a policy to be implemented by local boards of education to ensure  
8 academic freedom in the classroom. Nothing in the policy shall prohibit an  
9 educator from maintaining a safe and orderly classroom or a timely agenda.  
10 The policy shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

- 11 a. Students and educators are encouraged to respect the ideological,  
12 political, religious, or nonreligious viewpoints held by all persons in  
13 the classroom.  
14 b. Students and educators are permitted to engage in open dialogue,  
15 critical thinking, and the free exchange of ideas related to the content  
16 of the course.  
17 c. A student shall not be discriminated against or mocked for the  
18 student's ideological, political, religious, or nonreligious viewpoints.  
19 d. An educator shall not take a student's ideological, political, religious,  
20 or nonreligious viewpoints into account when evaluating the student's  
21 performance.  
22 e. Educators may answer questions posed by students with openness and  
23 honesty."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
25 the 2019-2020 school year.

