

May 16, 2000

**S 1255. CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP (=H 1547).** *TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF MINORITY AND AT-RISK STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST FAMILIES AT CERTAIN INCOME LEVELS WITH CHILDREN PERFORMING BELOW GRADE LEVEL IN IMPROVING FAMILY COHESIVENESS, FUNCTIONING, AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS, TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, TO MAKE PERMANENT THE COMMISSION, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE HISTORICALLY MINORITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE TO CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.* Identical to H 1547, introduced 5/16/00.

**Intro. by Martin of Guilford, Carter, Dannelly, Garrou, and Garwood.**

Ref. to Education	GS 120, APPROP
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June 5, 2000

**S 1255. CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP.** Intro. 5/16/2000. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds representative of charter schools to task force to be appointed to advise Dep't of Health and Human Services on its pilot program to help families with children performing below grade level. Moves date for interim report from State Board of Education from Jan. 1, 2001 to Jan. 15, 2001 for its study of under-representation of minorities in honors classes and similar programs. Moves reporting date for State Board on its progress in developing Minority Achievement Report Card from Oct. 1, 2000 to Nov. 15, 2000. Provides that State Board must comply with federal laws and regulations in considering extending the End-of-Grade testing exemption to more than two years for LEP students. Provides that State Board in reporting on student expulsions and suspensions for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school years is to collect and report data beginning with the effective date of act; moves date by which local school units must report needed data to State Board from Oct. 1, 2000 to Oct. 15, 2000 and date by which State Board must report from Nov. 15, 2000 to Feb. 15, 2001. Raises amount State Board may use to comply with act from \$200,000 to \$400,000, with funds coming from State Aid to Local School Administrative Units.