

February 7, 2001

S 98. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. Establishes the Commission on Students With Disabilities, with seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House; seven by the Pres. Pro Tem.; and four by the Governor. Gives the comm'n the powers of a joint committee under GS 120-19 and 120-19.1. Directs the comm'n to study specified issues, including (1) numbers of children receiving or needing services and the cost of educating students in state residential institutions compared to community-based programs; (2) effect of testing students with disabilities for accountability purposes versus the federal mandate for including these students in testing; (3) effect of possible tension between the state's preference for safe schools and the federal preference for keeping students with disabilities in school if their discipline problems are related to their disabilities; (4) the rate and timing, in relation to testing, of expulsion or suspension of students with disabilities; (5) the cost of increasing the 12.5% funding cap to 13% or 13.5%; (6) whether special education services are being distributed equitably statewide; (7) whether the State Board of Education has a neutral, clear appeal process for the exit exam and how that process is working for students with disabilities; (8) whether the Board has made the alternative assessment portfolio available to all students who need it; (9) problems with training, recruiting, and retaining special education teachers; and (10) state law regarding time limits in resolving disputes about education placement of students with disabilities. Authorizes the comm'n to contract for professional or consultant services and to make an interim report to the 2001 Session of the General Assembly when it convenes. Requires it to make its final report to the 2002 General Assembly upon its convening, at which time the comm'n expires. Amends GS 115C-105.35 to specify that the School-Based Management and Accountability Program must hold schools accountable for the educational growth of students with disabilities. Rewrites GS 115C-12(9)c3. to require that local school building improvement reports include disaggregated data on students, including those with disabilities. Requires the State Board of Education to (1) post on its web site information about the education of students with disabilities and (2) document how local school administrative units are funding the provision of special education to more students with disabilities than are covered by the 12.5% funding cap. Provisions relating to establishment of the comm'n and allocation of funds for its expenses are effective July 1, 2001; remainder of act is effective when it becomes law.

Intro. by Dannelly, Lucas, Moore, Wellons.

Ref. to Ch. & Hum Res.	GS 115C
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March 19, 2001

S 98. MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Intro. 2/7/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Makes technical changes only.

March 21, 2001

S 98. MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Intro. 2/7/01. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Rewrites amendment to GS 115C-12(9) to require that annual "report card" assessing efforts to improve student performance must include disaggregated data on students, including those with disabilities; to delete a similar provision with respect to "school building improvement reports"; and to make these amendments effective July 1, 2001.

October 3, 2002

S 98. STUDIES ACT OF 2002 (NEW). Intro. 2/7/01. House committee substitute and amendments make the following changes to 3rd edition. Completely replaces bill with "*AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE STUDIES BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION, TO CREATE AND EXTEND VARIOUS STUDY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, AND TO AUTHORIZE OR DIRECT STATE AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO STUDY SPECIFIED ISSUES.*"

Authorizes the Legislative Research Comm'n to study the following topics and report to the 2003 General Assembly:

- Including charter schools in the Tort Claims Act for school bus accidents
- Naturopathy
- Alcoholic beverage laws, including special provisions for sports clubs
- State ports
- Motorcycle safety
- Internet spam
- Employer benefits, including retirement, early retirement and disability benefits
- Excluding airports from the public enterprise billing information privacy law
- Earlier organization of the General Assembly to expedite session
- Establishing Mounted Horse/Caisson Patrol Unit
- Criminal history record checks of long-term care provider employees, including federal restrictions on distribution of criminal history information and lawful means of using records checks to effectuate State policies, ways in which record checks are obtained, solutions found by other states and other issues related to State record check requirements
- Personnel system statutes, particularly benefits enhancements, career status, exemptions, compensation, demonstration projects and employee relations and opportunities to simplify law to enable State Personnel Commission to adopt changes more effectively and efficiently
- Relationship between professions of engineering and landscape architecture, including qualifications of landscape architects, definition of landscape architecture, areas of overlap between engineering and landscape architecture professions and governance of State Board of Landscape Architects and Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors
- Revival of notice of settlement act, including need for use of notice document prior to real estate closing
- Ways to decrease homelessness, including amount of State resources necessary for local communities to continue eligibility for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funding

Extends termination date of 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Comm'n to December 31, 2004.

Creates On-Line Voting Comm'n and requires that Comm'n study feasibility of establishing a system of internet voting, including existing technology, experience of other states, ease of use and accessibility to on-line voting, and report findings on or before convening of 2003 General Assembly.

Requires Dep't of Health and Human Services to study the following topics and report before January 1, 2003: (1) ways the State can facilitate public access to public and private free and discount prescription drug programs for senior citizens; and (2) ways to establish a group health insurance purchasing system for staff in residential and non-residential long-term care facilities.

Creates Legis. Study Comm'n on Companion Animals and requires submission of final report to the 2004 Regular Session of the 2003 General Assembly. Requires Comm'n to consider operation of public and private animal shelters and ways to reduce the unwanted companion animal population by spay-neuter programs and resulting cost savings.

Authorizes Jt. Legis. Oversight Committee to study the following topics and report its finding to the 2003 General Assembly: (1) ways to improve recruitment and retention of public school teachers, including salary enhancements, giving license reciprocity to licensees in other states and other ways to make licensing easier, providing tuition support and training for alternative licensure candidates and using recruitment incentives; and (2) the need for additional fiscal and administrative flexibility for local boards of education.

Authorizes the Revenue Laws Study Committee to study the following topics and report its findings to the 2003 General Assembly: (1) the application of sales and use taxes to asphalt and cement used in contract performance; and (2) issues relating to collection of county property taxes on mobile homes.

Authorizes the Jt. Legis. Health Care Oversight Committee to study feasibility of establishing uniform appointments process for health care professional licensing boards.

Requires Legis. Study Comm'n on the Horace Williams Airport to study continuing the operation of Airport and report its findings prior to the convening of the 2003 General Assembly.

Establishes Legis. Study Comm'n on the Teacher's and State Employees' Retirement System and requires it to study the system, early retirement, the accumulation of vacation benefits for those who work 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, and other issues concerning financial health of the system on or before the convening of the 2003 General Assembly.

Authorizes Jt. Legis. Transportation Oversight Committee to study I-95 toll roads.

Creates State Disability Income Plan Study Comm'n and directs it to study the design, funding, and administration of the Disability Income Plan of NC.

Creates Statewide Emergency Preparedness Study Comm'n and directs it to study the delivery and funding of emergency medical services in the state.

Creates Legis. Study Comm'n on Securities Fraud Enforcement Laws and directs it to study the state securities fraud enforcement laws and the provisions of S 1455, 4th Edition.

Directs Dep't of Transportation to study the feasibility of charging a toll on I-95 and directing use of toll proceeds for expansion and maintenance of I-95.

Directs General Statutes Study Comm'n to study personal representatives' authority to take possession of and dispose of real property of an estate without an order of the court. Authorizes Comm'n to study whether NC should allow a method for the distribution of property coming to an estate after the estate is closed without the necessity of reopening the estate.

Creates House Select Study Committee on Video Gaming Machines and directs it to study, among other things, the regulation of those machines, problems associated with them, and the potential impact on the casino operations of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians if the machines were banned.

Creates Legis. Regional Economic Development Comm'n Reporting Requirements Study Comm'n and directs it to study the current reporting requirements applicable to the state's seven Regional Economic Development Comm'ns.