

April 18, 2005

**H 1250. NC EDUCATION BANK. AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' EDUCATION BANK PROGRAM.** Enacts new Article 79 of GS Chapter 143 to establish new program as title indicates. Program permits teachers and state employees to accumulate credits that may be used in lieu of tuition for courses offered by the constituent institutions of the UNC System, the NC Community College System, or any private institution of higher learning that receives state funding. Members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, and the Legislative Retirement System are eligible to accrue and redeem credits. The spouse, children, and grandchildren of these members are eligible to redeem credits. Sets forth the schedule by which credits will be deposited in members' Education Bank Accounts and specifies the value of each credit in terms of semester or quarter hours. Specifies that persons redeeming credits must meet all other qualifications established by the participating institution for the courses they elect.

Provides that current employees with seven years of service may request an unpaid leave of absence of up to one year for educational purposes. Employees who are granted an educational leave may not qualify for another educational leave until they accumulate an additional seven years of service.

Provides that employers who require employees to take courses as part of mandatory training must pay tuition and fees for the courses and count time in attendance at the courses as employee work time. This benefit is separate from the Education Bank program.

Provides that current employees who are not on work-related disciplinary probation may take one course per term on a tuition-and-fee remission basis. This benefit is separate from the Education Bank program.

**Intro. by Insko.**

Ref. to Education

GS 143