

February 22, 2007

**H 359. RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.** Filed 2/22/07. *TO RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR LAW.* Current law under GS 115C-84.2(d) sets a requirement that, except for year-round schools, the opening date for students may not be before August 25 and the closing date for students not after June 10. The State Board of Education may waive the opening and starting dates upon a showing of good cause or for an educational purpose. The act adds four additional educational purposes to the statute: (1) to align the system calendar with a local university or community college, (2) to adjust the examination schedule systemwide to benefit students or accommodate specified examinations, (3) to accommodate block schedules systemwide, and (4) to handle inclement weather or other emergency situations on a systemwide basis. Applies beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

**Intro. by Bell, Lucas.**

GS 115C

March 29, 2007

**H 359. RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.** Filed 2/22/07. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Modifies proposed amendments to GS 115C-84.2(d) to remove "inclement weather or other emergency basis" as an "educational purpose" to support a systemwide waiver of school opening and closing dates. Adds requirement that any waivers of school opening and closing dates granted for an educational purpose are to remain in effect as long as the educational purpose exists. Makes conforming change. Changes the title to *AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE IN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THREE SYSTEMWIDE WAIVERS: (I) TO ALIGN THE CALENDAR WITH THAT OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, (II) TO ADJUST THE EXAMINATION SCHEDULE TO BENEFIT STUDENTS OR TO ACCOMMODATE ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS, AND (III) TO ACCOMMODATE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLOCK SCHEDULES; AND TO ALLOW ANY WAIVERS GRANTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE TO BE EFFECTIVE SO LONG AS THE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE EXISTS.*

April 3, 2007

**H 359. RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.** Filed 2/22/07. House amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Rewords the definition of the term *educational purpose* to provide that accommodation of programs and block schedules must be reasonable and that the programs accommodated must be academic programs. Adds new GS 115C-84.2(d1) to require each local board of education to appoint an advisory committee to assist in developing a school calendar and provide that at least one member of the committee must be a county commissioner.

July 16, 2008

**H 359. PROMOTE VOTING BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (NEW).** Filed 2/22/07. Senate committee substitute makes changes to 3rd edition to be digested in tomorrow's *Daily Bulletin*.

July 17, 2008

**H 359. PROMOTE VOTING BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (NEW).** Filed 2/22/07. Senate committee substitute deletes the provisions of the 3rd edition and replaces it with *AN ACT TO PROMOTE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP EFFORTS BY ENCOURAGING VOTING BY ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.* Amends GS 163-82.23 to delete language allowing a local school board to designate volunteer high school employees to assist in completing voter registration forms. Amends GS 115C-81(g1) to require the State Board of Education to require instruction on voter eligibility and on the process of completing voter registration forms as part of the high school social studies curriculum. Provides that the instruction must not encourage or try to influence students to register to vote with a particular affiliation. Amends GS 115C-47 (local boards of education powers and duties) to require local boards of education to ensure that voter

registration forms are distributed to enrolled students 17 years old and older in a timely manner before the registration deadline for each primary and general election. Requires local boards of education to require that schools submit completed forms on the student applicant's behalf to the county board of elections, and that schools report to the county board of elections by the twentieth day before a primary or election regarding (1) the number of students who have received voter applications and (2) the number of completed applications that have been submitted by the school. Effective when the act becomes law and applies beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

July 17, 2008

**H 359. PROMOTE VOTING BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.** Filed 2/22/07. Senate amendments make the following changes to 4th edition. Amendment #1 amends proposed GS 115C-47(51) to require that local boards of education ensure that voter registration forms are distributed to students 18 (was, 17) and older. Makes a technical change. Directs local boards of education to require schools to designate a central location for the return of completed forms. Deletes the requirement that schools report to the county board of elections regarding the number of applications received and the number of completed applications. Provides that no local board of education or public school employee charged with distributing or collecting and forwarding voter registration forms is liable in civil damages for any act or omission relating to these duties. Clarifies that this subdivision should not be construed to create a private cause of action against any local board of education, its agents or employees, or to create a separate criminal offense.

Amendment #3 amends proposed revised GS 163-82.23 to require the State Board of Elections to develop training materials on the administration of this section and GS 115C-47(51), voter eligibility, and penalties for voter and elections fraud, with the county board of elections providing the training to school faculty at least annually. Amends proposed GS 115C-47(51) to require local boards of education to require that schools appoint a faculty member to be trained by the county board of elections with the State Board of Elections developed training materials.

Amendment #5 amends GS 90-295(a)(3), which provides for submitting evidence of supervised, direct clinical experience with individuals who present a variety of communication disorders as part of the application for permanent licensure as a speech and language pathologist, by changing the number of hours required in specified experience areas from 200 to 20. Makes a conforming change to the title.

July 18, 2008

**H 359. SPEECH PATHOLOGIST CORRECTIONS (NEW).** Filed 2/22/07. Conference report recommends the following changes to 4th edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Deletes all provisions of the 4th edition, as amended, and replaces it with *AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS LICENSURE*. Amends GS 90-295(a)(3), which provides for submitting evidence of supervised, direct clinical experience with individuals who present a variety of communication disorders as part of the application for permanent licensure as a speech and language pathologist, by changing the number of hours required in specified experience areas from 200 to 20.