

March 13, 2007

**S 709. OFFER SIGN LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS & COLLEGES.** Filed 3/13/07. *ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR CREDIT AS A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE.*

Amends GS 115C-296 to require the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt and implement certification standards in American Sign Language (ASL) for teacher preparation programs. Amends GS 115D-5 to direct the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to develop curriculum and continuing education standards for instruction in ASL and encouraging the SBCC to offer courses in ASL as a modern foreign language. Amends GS 116-11 to direct the University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Governors to encourage the UNC system schools to offer ASL courses as a modern foreign language. Requires the SBE, the SBCC, and the UNC Board of Governors to report on their respective implementation of requirements under the act to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by October 1, 2007.

**Intro. by Purcell.**

GS 115C, 115D, 116