

March 19, 2007

S 927. GREEN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN FUND/PROGRAM. Filed 3/19/07. *TO CREATE THE GREEN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO BE USED FOR NO-INTEREST LOANS TO LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED CONSTRUCTION, COMMISSIONING, AND INSTALLATION PROJECTS AND TO ESTABLISH THE GREEN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR RENOVATION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.* Enacts new GS 115C-521.1 creating the Green School Construction Loan Fund, under the direction of the Department of Public Instruction, to provide local boards of education with no-interest loans for energy-efficient and sustainable construction projects, with priority given to projects that result in the greatest reduction in energy and water usage. Appropriates \$1 million for 2007-08 and \$1 million for 2008-09 from the General Fund to the Green School Construction Loan Fund. Enacts new GS 115C-521.2 establishing the Green School Construction Program (construction program), a voluntary program for the design and construction of school facilities meeting the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards or North Carolina sustainable school design protocol standards. Encourages local boards of education using the high-performance standards to monitor the resulting operating savings and report the savings to the Department of Administration (DOA) annually; DOA must present these reports to several legislative committees by September 1 of each year. Directs DOA to consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and develop guidelines for the program. Amends GS 115C-426.3 to require local school administrative units participating in the construction program to report utility consumption to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Directs the State Energy Office to develop the North Carolina sustainable school design protocol standards, to be used instead of the North Carolina Energy Guidelines for School Design and Construction, for the construction of all new school buildings and for repairing old school buildings. Amends GS 115C-521 to encourage the consideration of ways to minimize the use of energy and water in new school buildings and makes conforming changes. The Green School Construction Loan Fund provisions and appropriations are effective July 1, 2007, and the remainder of the bill is effective January 1, 2008.

Intro. by Garrou.

GS 115C, APPROP