

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H.B. 287
Mar 12, 2013
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH70109-LE-18 (02/05)

Short Title: Increase Dropout Age From 16 to 17.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Moffitt, Brandon, and D. Ross (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT STUDENTS FROM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE
3 AGE OF SEVENTEEN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-378(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(a) Every parent, guardian or custodian in this State having charge or control of a child
7 between the ages of seven and ~~16~~17 years shall cause the child to attend school continuously
8 for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in
9 ~~session.~~session, unless the child graduates from high school. Every parent, guardian, or
10 custodian in this State having charge or control of a child under age seven who is enrolled in a
11 public school in grades kindergarten through two shall also cause the child to attend school
12 continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is
13 assigned shall be in session unless the child has withdrawn from school."

14 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-238.66(3) reads as rewritten:

15 "(3) School attendance. – Every parent, guardian, or other person in this State
16 having charge or control of a child who is enrolled in the regional school and
17 who is less than ~~16~~17 years of age shall cause such child to attend school
18 continuously for a period equal to the time that the regional school shall be
19 ~~in session.~~session, unless the child graduates from high school. No person
20 shall encourage, entice, or counsel any child to be unlawfully absent from
21 the regional school. Any person who aids or abets a student's unlawful
22 absence from the regional school shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class
23 1 misdemeanor. The principal shall be responsible for implementing such
24 additional policies concerning compulsory attendance as shall be adopted by
25 the board of directors, including regulations concerning lawful and unlawful
26 absences, permissible excuses for temporary absences, maintenance of
27 attendance records, and attendance counseling."

28 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 116-235(b)(2) reads as rewritten:

29 "(2) School Attendance. – Every parent, guardian, or other person in this State
30 having charge or control of a child who is enrolled in the School and who is
31 less than ~~16~~17 years of age shall cause such child to attend school
32 continuously for a period equal to the time which the School shall be in
33 ~~session.~~session, unless the child graduates from high school. No person
34 shall encourage, entice, or counsel any child to be unlawfully absent from
35 the School. Any person who aids or abets a student's unlawful absence from
36 the School shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The



1 Chancellor of the School shall be responsible for implementing such
2 additional policies concerning compulsory attendance as shall be adopted by
3 the Board of Trustees, including regulations concerning lawful and unlawful
4 absences, permissible excuses for temporary absences, maintenance of
5 attendance records, and attendance counseling."

6 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7B-1501(27) reads as rewritten:

7 "(27) Undisciplined juvenile. –

8 a. A juvenile who, while less than ~~16~~17 years of age but at least 6 years
9 of age, is unlawfully absent from school; or is regularly disobedient
10 to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's parent,
11 guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where it is
12 unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a period
13 of more than 24 hours; or

14 b. A juvenile who is ~~16 or~~ 17 years of age and who is regularly
15 disobedient to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's
16 parent, guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where
17 it is unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a
18 period of more than 24 hours."

19 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 143B-805(20) reads as rewritten:

20 "(20) Undisciplined juvenile. –

21 a. A juvenile who, while less than ~~16~~17 years of age but at least 6 years
22 of age, is unlawfully absent from school; or is regularly disobedient
23 to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's parent,
24 guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where it is
25 unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a period
26 of more than 24 hours; or

27 b. A juvenile who is ~~16 or~~ 17 years of age and who is regularly
28 disobedient to and beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's
29 parent, guardian, or custodian; or is regularly found in places where
30 it is unlawful for a juvenile to be; or has run away from home for a
31 period of more than 24 hours."

32 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.