

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

H.B. 825
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH40346-MK-87 (02/27)

Short Title: School-to-Prison Pipeline/Study.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pierce.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF
3 A SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is created the Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of a
6 School-to-Prison Pipeline in North Carolina (Task Force).

7 **SECTION 2.** The Task Force shall consist of 15 members as follows:

8 (1) Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as
9 follows:

- 10 a. Two persons who are members of the Senate at the time of
11 appointment.
12 b. A school counselor.
13 c. A representative from a juvenile court.
14 d. A superintendent of a local school administrative unit.
15 e. A school principal.

16 (2) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as
17 follows:

- 18 a. Two persons who are members of the House of Representatives at
19 the time of appointment.
20 b. A representative of an organization representing law enforcement.
21 c. A school resource officer.
22 d. A public school teacher
23 e. A representative of an organization serving at-risk youth.

24 (3) The Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety, Center for Safer
25 Schools, or designee.

26 (4) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or designee.

27 (5) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee.

28 **SECTION 3.** The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one
29 Representative as cochair, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one
30 Senator as cochair. Vacancies on the Task Force shall be filled by the same appointing
31 authority that made the initial appointment. A quorum of the Task Force shall be a majority of
32 its members.

33 **SECTION 4.** The Task Force shall study the relationship between school
34 discipline, dropout rates, and involvement of students in the juvenile justice system in North
35 Carolina that may result in a school-to-prison pipeline. As part of this study, the Task Force
36 shall do at least the following:



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- 1 (1) Examine school disciplinary practices that remove students from the
2 mainstream classroom and determine whether those practices are connected
3 to a greater entry of students into the juvenile justice system, including
4 identifying whether school disciplinary practices in the State reflect any of
5 the following:
 - 6 a. Overrepresentation of minority students or special education students
7 for disciplinary referrals.
 - 8 b. Suspension rates that are related to an increase in dropout rate for
9 those students.
 - 10 c. Disciplinary referrals for elementary age students that result in
11 removal from the mainstream classroom.
- 12 (2) Determine whether a history of a student's disciplinary referrals is a
13 significant predictor of a student's likelihood of entry into the juvenile justice
14 system.
- 15 (3) Examine the role of school resource officers and law enforcement agencies
16 in disciplinary referrals that may lead to entry of students into the juvenile
17 justice system.
- 18 (4) Examine current programs offered through community organizations and
19 other support services designed to address at-risk students and their entry
20 into the juvenile justice system.
- 21 (5) Identify statewide goals to prevent a school-to-prison pipeline.
- 22 (6) Study any other issue the Task Force considers relevant.

23 **SECTION 5.** The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official duties, may
24 exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Task Force
25 may meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. The Task Force may meet in the
26 Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

27 With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services
28 Officer shall assign professional staff to assist the Task Force in its work. The House of
29 Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to
30 the Task Force and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the Task
31 Force. The Task Force may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as
32 provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Task Force hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a
33 State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.

34 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their subdivisions
35 shall furnish the Task Force with any information in their possession or available to them.

36 **SECTION 6.** The Task Force shall submit a final report of the results of its study
37 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 2016 General Assembly.
38 The Task Force shall terminate on April 1, 2016, or upon the filing of its final report,
39 whichever occurs first.

40 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.