

# FAILED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. A36  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S257-AMK-32 [v.3]

Page 1 of 3

Amends Title [NO]  
Sixth Edition

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Representative B. Richardson

1 moves to amend the bill on page 2, line 4, by increasing the amount for the 2017-2018 fiscal  
2 year by \$10,000,000 and by increasing the amount for the 2018-2019 fiscal year by  
3 \$10,000,000; and

4  
5 on page 2, line 36, by decreasing the amount for the 2017-2018 fiscal year by \$10,000,000 and  
6 by decreasing the amount for the 2018-2019 fiscal year by \$10,000,000; and

7  
8 on page 109, lines 16-17, by inserting between those lines the following new section to read:

9 **"FUND NC GROW/REDUCE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

10 **SECTION 9.15.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.8(b), as amended by Section 6.6(b) of this act,  
11 reads as rewritten:

12 "(b) The General Assembly finds that, due to the critical need in this State to provide  
13 opportunity for school choice for North Carolina students, it is imperative that the State provide  
14 ~~an increase of funds of at least ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) each fiscal year for 10 years to~~  
15 the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. Therefore, there is appropriated from the  
16 General Fund to the Reserve the following amounts for each fiscal year to be used for the  
17 purposes set forth in this section:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
18 2017-2018	\$44,840,000\$34,840,000
19 2018-2019	\$54,840,000\$44,840,000
20 2019-2020	\$64,840,000\$54,840,000
21 2020-2021	\$74,840,000\$64,840,000
22 2021-2022	\$84,840,000\$74,840,000
23 2022-2023	\$94,840,000\$84,840,000
24 2023-2024	\$104,840,000\$94,840,000
25 2024-2025	\$114,840,000\$104,840,000
26 2025-2026	\$124,840,000\$114,840,000
27 2026-2027	\$134,840,000\$124,840,000

28  
29 For the 2027-2028 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the  
30 General Fund to the Reserve the sum of one hundred ~~forty-four~~thirty-four million eight  
31 hundred forty thousand dollars (~~\$144,840,000~~)(\$134,840,000) to be used for the purposes set  
32 forth in this section. In developing for a fiscal year the base budget, as defined in



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Page 2 of 3

1 G.S. 143C-1-1, the Director of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount set forth in  
2 this subsection for that particular fiscal year."

3 **SECTION 9.15.(b)** G.S. 115C-562.2(b1) is repealed.

4 **SECTION 9.15.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funds  
5 appropriated by this act for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to the Board of Governors for the  
6 Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve shall be decreased (i) for the 2017-2018 fiscal  
7 year, by ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in recurring funds and (ii) for the 2018-2019 fiscal  
8 year, by ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in recurring funds as provided in G.S. 115C-562.8,  
9 as amended by this section.

10 **SECTION 9.15.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funds  
11 appropriated by this act for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to the Community Colleges System  
12 Office shall be increased (i) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, by ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)  
13 in recurring funds and (ii) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year by ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in  
14 recurring funds to be used to administer the North Carolina Getting Ready for Opportunities in  
15 the Workforce (NC GROW) scholarship program established in subsections (e), (f), and (g) of  
16 this section.

17 **SECTION 9.15.(e)** There is established the North Carolina Getting Ready for  
18 Opportunities in the Workforce (NC GROW) scholarship program (Program) to provide  
19 scholarships to enable recent high school graduates to enroll in a community college free of  
20 tuition and fees in accordance with this section. Subject to the limitations set forth in this  
21 section, the State Board of Community Colleges is authorized to (i) administer the Program  
22 consistent with the manner in which it administers funds to community college students  
23 qualifying for the Scholarships for Needy Students program under Article 35A of Chapter  
24 115C of the General Statutes and the Need-Based Assistance program under G.S. 115D-40.1  
25 and (ii) utilize criteria in the selection of community college students for the Program so that no  
26 qualifying North Carolina student incurs costs of tuition and selected fees to attend a  
27 community college beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The State Board of Community  
28 Colleges shall contract with the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) to administer  
29 the Program. Funds appropriated for the Program shall be disbursed after funds are first  
30 awarded to students eligible for the Scholarships for Needy Students program, the Need-Based  
31 Assistance program, the High Achieving Tuition Scholarship Program, or any combination of  
32 these funds. Funds may then be appropriated under this Program to those students who do not  
33 demonstrate need or meet criteria sufficient to qualify for other financial assistance programs.  
34 The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish criteria for determining eligibility for  
35 the Program for community college students that includes at least the following:

- 36 (1) The student is a legal resident of North Carolina for tuition purposes.  
37 (2) The student graduated from a North Carolina high school or attained a high  
38 school equivalency certificate within 18 months of the first semester for  
39 which funds are disbursed.  
40 (3) The student has a minimum GPA of 2.0.  
41 (4) The student is enrolled at least half-time at a community college. Funds shall  
42 not be disbursed to a student until it is confirmed from the enrolling

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Page 3 of 3

1 community college that the student meets the high school graduation and  
2 GPA standards for the scholarship.

3 **SECTION 9.15.(f)** A student may receive a scholarship under the Program for  
4 subsequent terms of enrollment provided that the student maintains satisfactory academic  
5 progress, as determined by the community college, and has not received the scholarship for  
6 more than six consecutive semesters. The State Board of Community Colleges may establish a  
7 minimum scholarship amount of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per semester for full-time  
8 enrollment.

9 **SECTION 9.15.(g)** Consistent with the provisions for other financial assistance  
10 programs administered pursuant to G.S. 115D-40.1(c), beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal  
11 year, funds appropriated for the Program shall not revert at the end of each fiscal year but shall  
12 remain available until expended for the operation of the Program. If the interest earnings on the  
13 funds appropriated for this Program are not sufficient to cover administrative costs for the  
14 Program, the State Board of Community Colleges may use up to one and one-half percent  
15 (1.5%) of funds appropriated for the Program each fiscal year to support the costs of  
16 administering the Program, including contracting with the Authority to administer the Program.  
17 Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, of the funds appropriated for the Program, the State  
18 Board of Community Colleges may use up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each  
19 fiscal year to market NC GROW to prospective recipients. The remaining funds shall be used  
20 to award scholarships to students in accordance with the requirements of the section."; and

21  
22 by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ FAILED \_\_\_\_\_ TABLED \_\_\_\_\_

**The official copy of this document, with signatures  
and vote information, is available in the  
House Principal Clerk's Office**