

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 1116
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10782-MTa-157

Short Title: Enhancing Accessibility to Teacher Prof. Dev. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Ball.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL
3 DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR TEACHERS.

4 Whereas, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has impacted participation by
5 our teachers in and the delivery of professional development opportunities offered through the
6 North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT); and

7 Whereas, teacher effectiveness is the most important factor in delivering positive
8 student outcomes; and

9 Whereas, the State of North Carolina is committed to reaching as many teachers as
10 possible with high-quality and cost-effective professional development to increase teacher
11 effectiveness; and

12 Whereas, online learning allows resources to stretch further through the ability to
13 scale. Online learning reaches a large number of teachers and results in travel savings, reduced
14 substitute teacher pay, and other benefits. Online learning allows teachers to stay in their
15 classrooms while they learn new skills to improve student achievement; and

16 Whereas, strategically and systematically designed online professional development
17 courses can offer unique benefits to teachers, including flexibility and convenience, broad access
18 to information and learning opportunities, and the opportunity to interact with peers across the
19 State; and

20 Whereas, the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is nationally recognized
21 and the second-largest state-led virtual school in the nation. NCVPS delivers supplements to
22 middle and high school course catalogs and serves the professional development needs of North
23 Carolina's teachers; and

24 Whereas, the NCCAT focuses on providing North Carolina's teachers with
25 high-quality professional development to serve teachers in all 115 local school administrative
26 units; and

27 Whereas, NCVPS and NCCAT, in partnership, provide North Carolina teachers with
28 a rich suite of professional development options. NCVPS has the infrastructure and the skill set
29 to design and deploy online courses in a variety of formats. NCCAT understands the learning
30 needs of North Carolina's teachers and provides high-quality content targeted at those needs;
31 Now, therefore,

32 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

33 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

34 "(47) Professional Development Courses. – The State Board of Education, in
35 consultation with the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards
36 Commission, shall offer at least five professional development courses for



1 teachers in local school administrative units. Each course shall be based on at
2 least one of the following three instructional models:

3 a. Instructor-led, asynchronous learning with live class sessions. – A
4 learning experience in which all content, instruction, and interaction is
5 delivered online. Participants complete the course as a cohort, receive
6 individualized feedback from the instructor, and have the opportunity
7 to communicate directly with one another. Enrollment is limited to
8 between 25 and 35 participants.

9 b. Self-paced, asynchronous learning. – A flexible learning experience
10 based on the needs of the participants. A participant may access
11 courses individually and at his or her own pace. Each course includes
12 logistical and operational support, individualized feedback from the
13 instructor, and extensive peer-to-peer interaction. Enrollment may
14 exceed 35 participants.

15 c. Office hours; question and answer sessions. – Small learning
16 experiences focused on specific techniques, strategies, and tools for
17 teachers. Lectures are limited to 15 minutes with the remainder of the
18 session devoted to discussion, including questions and answers."

19 **SECTION 2.(a)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to
20 the Department of Public Instruction the sum of three hundred fifty thousand three hundred ten
21 dollars (\$350,310) in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to develop and implement
22 the professional development courses required by this act, including costs for on-site equipment
23 and personnel, registrations, technical support, and hosting fees.

24 **SECTION 2.(b)** State Budget Act Applies. – The provisions of the State Budget Act,
25 Chapter 143C of the General Statutes, are reenacted and shall remain in full force and effect and
26 are incorporated in this act by reference.

27 **SECTION 2.(c)** Additional Limitations and Directions. – Except where expressly
28 repealed or amended by this act, the provisions of any other legislation enacted during the 2019
29 Regular Session of the General Assembly expressly appropriating funds to an agency, a
30 department, or an institution covered under this act, shall remain in effect.

31 **SECTION 2.(d)** Applicability of House Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session. – If House
32 Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, and any provision of that act or a provision of the
33 Committee Report described in Section 42.2 of that act conflicts with this act, this act shall
34 control.

35 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020.