GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA **SESSION 2021**

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HOUSE BILL 755

Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/21 Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/4/21 PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H755-PCS30543-TC-62

	Short Title: P	arents' Bill of Rights.	(Public)
	Sponsors:		
	Referred to:		
		May 3, 2021	
1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
2	AN ACT TO EN	NUMERATE THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS TO DIRECT T	THE UPBRINGING.
3		N, HEALTH CARE, AND MENTAL HEALTH O	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
4	CHILDREN		
5		sembly of North Carolina enacts:	
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7	PART I. PARE	NTS' BILL OF RIGHTS	
8	SEC'	TION 1. Subchapter VI of Chapter 115C of the General St	atutes is amended by
9	adding a new Ar	<u>-</u>	·
10		"Article 29E.	
11		"Parents' Bill of Rights.	
12	" <u>§ 115C-407.50.</u>	Definitions.	
13	The following	g definitions apply in this Article:	
14	<u>(1)</u>	Reserved for future codification purposes.	
15	<u>(2)</u>	Child. – A person less than 18 years of age who has no	ot been emancipated
16		pursuant to Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statu	<u>ites.</u>
17	<u>(3)</u>	Reserved for future codification purposes.	
18	<u>(4)</u>	Reserved for future codification purposes.	
19	<u>(5)</u>	Parent. – A person who has legal custody of a child	as a natural parent,
20		adoptive parent, or legal guardian.	
21	<u>(6)</u>	State. – The State, any of its political subdivisions, or an	
22		1 through 115C-407.52. Reserved for future codification p	ourposes.
23		Parents' bill of rights.	
24	A parent has	the right to the following:	
25	<u>(1)</u>	To direct the education and care of his or her child.	
26	<u>(2)</u>	To direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of	
27	<u>(3)</u>	To enroll his or her child in a public or nonpublic school	
28		choice options available to the parent for which the child	
29		by law, in order to comply with compulsory attendance	laws, as provided in
30		Part 1 of Article 26 of this Chapter.	
31	<u>(4)</u>	To access and review all education records, as author	
32		Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §	1232g, relating to his
33		or her child.	



notification of the parent would impede the investigation.

"§§ 115C-407.54 through 115C-407.55. Reserved for future codification purposes.

"§ 115C-407.56. Limitations on the right to parent.

- The requirements of this Article do not authorize a parent to do any of the following: (a)
 - Engage in unlawful conduct. (1)
 - (2) Abuse or neglect the child, as defined in Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.
- (b) The requirements of this Article do not prohibit the following:
 - A State official or employee from acting in his or her official capacity within (1) the reasonable and prudent scope of his or her authority.
 - A court of competent jurisdiction from acting in its official capacity within (2) the reasonable and prudent scope of its authority or issuing an order otherwise permitted by law.
- "§§ 115C-407.57 through 115C-407.58. Reserved for future codification purposes.
- "§ 115C-407.59. Employee penalties.

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General Assembly Of North Carolina Session 2021 1 An employee of the State who encourages, coerces, or attempts to encourage or coerce a child 2 to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action." 3 4 PART II. PARENTAL GUIDES AND NOTIFICATIONS 5 SECTION 2.(a) Subchapter III of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended 6 by adding a new Article to read: 7 "Article 7B. 8 "Public School Unit Requirements. 9 "Part 1. Definitions. 10 "§ 115C-76.1. Definitions. As used in this Article, the following definitions apply: 11 Reserved for future codification purposes. 12 (1) 13 (2) Child. – A person less than 18 years of age who has not been emancipated 14 pursuant to Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes. Reserved for future codification purposes. 15 (3) Reserved for future codification purposes. 16 (4) Parent. – A person who has legal custody of a child as a natural parent, 17 (5) 18 adoptive parent, or legal guardian. 19 Principal. – A school administrator employed as a principal of a school, as (6) 20 provided in Article 19 of this Chapter, or the staff member with the highest 21 decision-making authority at a school, if there is no principal. School personnel. – Any of the following: 22 <u>(7)</u> 23 An employee of a public school unit, whether full-time or part-time, a. 24 including substitute teachers, driver training teachers, bus drivers, 25 clerical staff, and custodians. An independent contractor or employee of an independent contractor 26 <u>b.</u> 27 of a public school unit, if the independent contractor carries out duties 28 customarily performed by school personnel and has significant access 29 to students, whether paid with federal, State, local, or other funds. 30 (8) Superintendent. – Any of the following: A superintendent of a local school administrative unit, as provided in 31 <u>a.</u> 32 Article 18 of this Chapter, or designee. 33 The staff member with the highest decision-making authority for a b. 34 public school unit, if there is no superintendent or designee. 35 "§§ 115C-76.2 through 115C-76.4. Reserved for future codification purposes. 36 "Part 3. Parental Involvement in Public School Units. 37 "§ 115C-76.5. Priority of parental involvement in public school. The General Assembly finds that parental involvement and empowerment is 38 39 fundamental to the successful education of all students. To strengthen partnerships among parents 40 and school personnel, public school units and all public school unit personnel shall fully support and cooperate in implementing a well-planned, inclusive, and comprehensive program to assist 41 42 parents and families in effectively participating in their child's education. 43 To ensure active engagement and timely provision of information that parents can use to improve success for their child, public school units shall comply with the requirements of this 44 45 Part to do all of the following: 46 (1) Inform parents of their legal rights and responsibilities with regards to their 47 child's education.

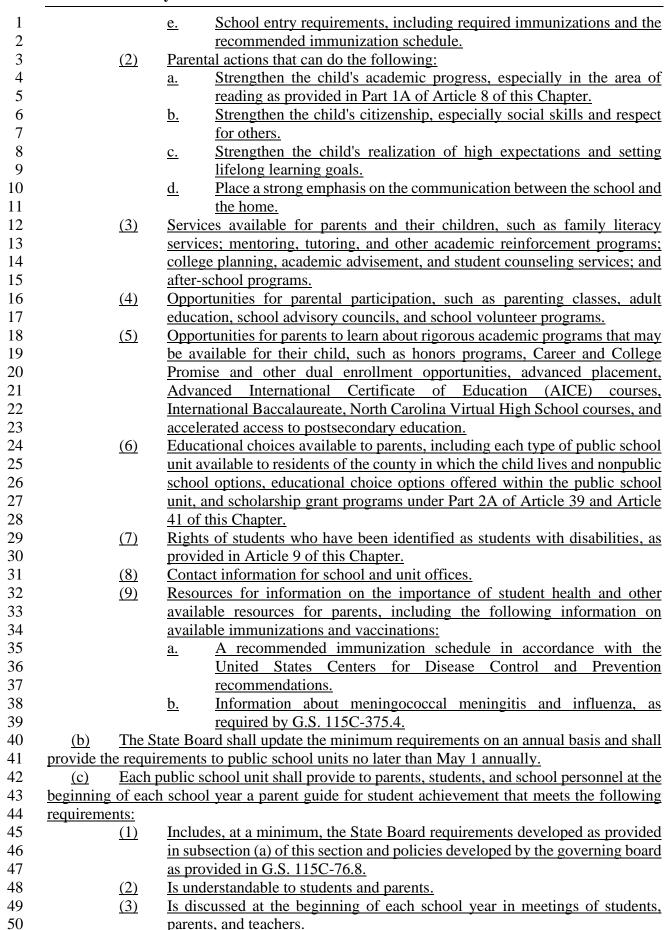
provide information parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school.

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Provide a parent's guide for student achievement annually to parents to

1 (3) Develop policies to effectively involve parents in schools and their child's 2 education. 3 "§ 115C-76.6. Parent legal rights for their child's education. 4 Parents have legal rights with regards to their child's education, including the 5 following: 6 <u>(1)</u> The right to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive 7 health and safety education programs, consistent with the requirements of 8 G.S. 115C-81.30. 9 The right to seek a medical or religious exemption from immunization (2) 10 requirements, consistent with the requirements of G.S. 130A-156 and 11 G.S. 130A-157. 12 <u>(3)</u> The right to review statewide standardized assessment results as part of the 13 State report card. 14 (4) The right to request an evaluation of their child for an academically or intellectually gifted program, or for identification as a child with a disability, 15 as provided in Article 9 of this Chapter. 16 17 The right to inspect and purchase public school unit textbooks and other (5) supplementary instructional materials, as provided in Part 3 of Article 8 of this 18 19 Chapter. 20 (6) The right to access information relating to the unit's policies for promotion or 21 retention, including high school graduation requirements. 22 The right to receive student report cards on a regular basis that clearly depict <u>(7)</u> 23 and grade the student's academic performance in each class or course, the 24 student's conduct, and the student's attendance. 25 The right to access information relating to the State public education system, (8) 26 State standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and 27 textbook requirements. 28 The right to participate in parent-teacher organizations. (9) 29 The right to opt out of certain data collection for their child, as provided in (10)30 Article 29 of this Chapter. 31 The right to review all available records of materials their child has borrowed (11)32 from a school library. 33 Public school units shall (i) allow parents to exercise these rights and (ii) make the 34 rights contained in this section available to parents electronically or by displaying the information 35 on the website of the public school unit. 36 "§ 115C-76.7. Parent's guide for student achievement. The State Board of Education shall develop minimum requirements for public school 37 units for a parent's guide to student achievement to provide what parents need to know about 38 39 their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school. These minimum requirements shall include at least the following: 40 41 Parental information regarding the following: (1) 42 Requirements for his or her child to be promoted to the next grade, a. 43 including the requirements of Part 1A of Article 8 of this Chapter. The course of study, textbooks, and other instructional materials for 44 <u>b.</u> 45 his or her child. 46 Progress of his or her child toward achieving State and unit <u>c.</u> expectations for academic proficiency, including policies for student 47 48 assessment, and his or her child's assessment results, report cards, and 49 progress reports. 50 Qualifications of his or her child's teachers, including licensure status. d.



"§ 115C-76.8. Public school unit policies to increase parental involvement.

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- (a) Governing bodies of public school units shall, in consultation with parents, teachers, administrators, and community partners, develop and adopt policies to promote parental involvement and empowerment in the public school unit. The policies shall provide for parental choices and establish parental responsibilities. Policies that provide for parental involvement shall include the following:
 - (1) Providing links to parents for community services.
 - (2) Establishing opportunities for parental involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of family involvement programs.
 - (3) Establishing opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory councils and in school volunteer programs and other activities.
- (b) Governing bodies of public school units shall establish policies to do all of the following:
 - (1) Provide for parental participation in their child's education to improve parent and teacher cooperation in areas such as homework, school attendance, and discipline that aligns with the parent guide for student achievement required by G.S. 115C-76.7.
 - (2) Require principals to effectively communicate to parents the manner in which textbooks are used to implement the school's curricular objectives.
 - (3) Establish a procedure for parents to learn about their child's course of study and the source of any supplementary instructional materials.
 - (4) Establish a means for parents to object to textbooks and supplementary instructional materials consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-98.
 - (5) Establish a process for parents to review materials for and to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs, consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-81.30.
 - (6) Establish a process for parents to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at their child's school, including both curricular and extracurricular activities.

"§ 115C-76.9. Time lines for parental requests for information.

- (a) A parent may request in writing from the principal of the school in which his or her child is enrolled any of the information the parent has the right to access, as provided in this Part. A principal, within 10 business days, shall either (i) provide the requested information to the parent or (ii) provide an extension notice to the parent that, due to the volume or complexity of the request, the information will be provided no later than 20 business days from the date of the parental request.
- (b) If the principal (i) denies or fails to respond to the request for information within 10 business days or (ii) fails to provide information within 20 business days following an extension notice as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the parent may request in writing any of the information the parent has the right to access, as provided in this Part, from the superintendent, along with a statement specifying the time frame of the denial or failure to provide information by the principal.
- (c) If the superintendent denies or does not respond to the request for information within 10 business days, the parent may appeal the denial or lack of response to the governing body of the public school unit no later than 20 business days from the date of the request to the superintendent as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The governing body shall place the parent's appeal on the agenda for the next meeting of the body occurring more than three business days after submission of the appeal.
- (d) The governing body shall establish, by policy, procedures governing requests for information and appeals that reflect the requirements of this section. The governing body may designate the process to be used by parents when submitting requests for information and shall

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display information on the procedures for requests for information and appeals along with other parental rights, as required by G.S. 115C-76.6.

(e) A decision of a governing body under this section is final and is not subject to judicial review.

"§§ 115C-76.10 through 115C-76.15. Reserved for future codification purposes.

"Part 4. Notifications of Student Physical and Mental Health.

"§ 115C-76.16. Notifications of student physical and mental health.

- (a) The governing board of a public school unit shall adopt procedures to notify a parent of the following:
 - (1) At the beginning of each school year, notice of each health care service offered at his or her child's school and the means for the parent to provide consent for any specific service. A parent's consent to a health care service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her child's educational records or health records or to be notified of changes in his or her child's services or monitoring.
 - (2) At the beginning of each school year, procedures to exercise the parental remedies provided by G.S. 115C-76.19.
 - (3) Prior to administration to students in kindergarten through third grade, a copy of any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form and the means for the parent to consent to the use of the questionnaire or form for his or her child.
 - (4) Prior to or contemporaneous with changes, notice of changes in services or monitoring related to his or her child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for that child.
 - (5) Prior to any changes in the name or pronoun used for a student in school records or by school personnel, notice to the parent of the change.
- (b) In accordance with the right of parents provided in Article 29E of this Chapter, the procedures shall include a requirement that school personnel do one or both of the following:
 - (1) Encourage a child to discuss issues related to the child's well-being with his or her parent.
 - (2) <u>Facilitate discussion of the issue with the child's parents.</u>
- (c) The procedures shall not prohibit parents from accessing any of their child's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the public school unit, except as follows:
 - (1) As limited by G.S. 115C-407.54(6).
 - When a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in the child becoming an abused juvenile or neglected juvenile, as those terms are defined in G.S. 7B-101.
- (d) The governing board and public school unit shall not adopt procedures or forms that do any of the following:
 - (1) Prohibit school employees from notifying a parent about his or her child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring.
 - (2) Encourage or have the effect of encouraging a child to withhold from that child's parent information about his or her mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring.
- (e) School personnel shall not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.
 - "§ 115C-76.17. Student support services training.

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Student support services training developed or provided by a public school unit to school personnel shall adhere to student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Public Instruction.

"§ 115C-76.18. Age-appropriate instruction for grades kindergarten through third grade.

Instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity shall not be included in the curriculum provided in grades kindergarten through third grade, regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties. For the purposes of this section, curriculum includes the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials.

"§ 115C-76.19. Remedies for parental concerns.

- The governing board of a public school unit shall adopt procedures for a parent to notify the principal at his or her child's school regarding concerns about a public school unit's procedure or practice under this Part and a process for resolving those concerns within seven days of the date of notification by the parent. If the parental concern has not been resolved within 30 days following the date of notification by the parent, the public school unit shall provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern.
- If a concern is not resolved by the public school unit within 30 days, a parent may do
 - Notify the State Board of Education of the concern and request a parental concern hearing. The State Board shall establish rules for parental concern hearings. At a minimum, the rules shall require the following:
 - The State Board of Education shall appoint a qualified hearing officer. To qualify as a hearing officer, an individual must be a member in good standing of the North Carolina State Bar with demonstrated experience in education or administrative law within the last five
 - The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with rules established
 - The hearing officer shall determine facts related to the dispute over the <u>c.</u> public school unit's procedure or practice, consider information provided by the public school unit, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after assignment to the parental concern hearing.
 - The State Board shall approve or reject the recommended decision at <u>d.</u> its next regularly scheduled board meeting held more than seven days after receipt of the recommended decision.
 - The public school unit shall pay for the costs of the hearing officer.
 - Bring an action against the public school unit as provided in Article 26 of Chapter 1 of the General Statutes for a declaratory judgment that the unit's procedure or practice violates this Part. The court may award injunctive relief to a parent and shall award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to a parent awarded injunctive relief.
- The provisions of this section are in addition to any other remedies or procedures authorized or permitted by law."

SECTION 2.(b) By June 30, 2023, the Department of Public Instruction shall review and update, as necessary, all of the following in accordance with this act:

- School counseling frameworks and standards. (1)
- (2) Educator practices and professional conduct principles.
- Other student services and school personnel guidelines, standards, or (3) frameworks.

SECTION 2.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

PART III. PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR HEALTH CARE OF MINORS

SECTION 3.(a) Article 1A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 3. Parental Consent for Treatment.

"§ 90-21.15. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1), (2) Reserved for future codification purposes.
- (3) Health care facility. A health care facility, licensed under Chapter 131E or 122C of the General Statutes, where health care services are provided to patients, including:
 - <u>a.</u> <u>An agent or employee of the health care facility that is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care services.</u>
 - b. The officers and directors of a health care facility.
- (4) Health care practitioner. An individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under this Chapter, Chapter 90B, Chapter 90C, or Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to provide health care services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession or in an approved education or training program, or an agent or employee of that individual.
- (5) Minor child. Any person under the age of 18 who has not been married or has not been emancipated pursuant to Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.
- (6) Reserved for future codification purposes.
- (7) Treatment. Any medical procedure or treatment, including X-rays, the administration of drugs, blood transfusions, use of anesthetics, and laboratory or other diagnostic procedures employed by or ordered by a health care practitioner that is used, employed, or ordered to be used or employed commensurate with the exercise of reasonable care and equal to the standards of medical practice normally employed in the community where the health care practitioner administers treatment to the minor child.

"§ 90-21.16. Parental consent for treatment.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article or by court order, a health care practitioner shall not provide, solicit, or arrange treatment for a minor child without first obtaining written consent from that minor child's parent.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Article or by court order, a health care facility shall not allow treatment to be performed on a minor child in its facility without first obtaining written consent from that minor child's parent.
- (c) This section does not apply to services provided by a clinical laboratory, unless the services are delivered through a direct encounter with the minor child at the clinical laboratory facility.

"§ 90-21.17. Penalty.

A health care practitioner or other person that violates this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board that licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized the health care practitioner to provide treatment, including a fine of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000)."

SECTION 3.(b) This section becomes effective December 1, 2022, and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1, 2022.