

**INTERIM REPORT
FOR
HOUSE BILL 1246**

Submitted to

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

By

**Board of Governors
The University of North Carolina**

February 8, 2002

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

HOUSE BILL 1246
RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TO STUDY THE MEASURES USED FOR ADMISSIONS, PLACEMENT, AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT DECISIONS BY THE CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, TO ALLOW INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED YOUTHS TO ATTEND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN YOUTHS TO BE EMPLOYED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges, shall study the measures used by the constituent institutions to make admissions, placement, and advanced placement decisions regarding incoming freshmen and shall assess the various uses made of those measures and the validity of those measures with regard to a student's academic performance and as predictors of a student's future academic performance. They shall also assess whether other alternative measures may be equally valid or more accurate as indicators of a student's academic performance. In the study, particular consideration should be given to whether or not to eliminate, continue, or change the emphasis placed on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and ACT Assessment for North Carolina students as a mandatory university admissions measure. The study should review incorporating the State's testing program into admissions, placement, and advanced placement decisions. Based on its findings, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges, may develop recommendations to improve the measures used to assess a student's academic performance, to adopt alternative measures, or to use various combinations of both to determine more accurately a student's academic knowledge and performance.

SECTION 1.(b) The study required by subsection 1(a) of this act may address all of the following:

- (1) Admissions. – The Board of Governors may examine the key elements used for making admissions decisions in the State's University System. Included in the factors to be studied are grade point average, class rank, and the SAT and ACT Assessment. Each element may be studied for reliability and validity independently and as used together. The Board of Governors may also compare the State's end-of-course testing with the SAT and ACT Assessment, assess how each reflects a student's academic performance, and consider shifting the emphasis currently placed on the SAT and ACT Assessment as an admissions measure to the State's end-of-course tests or other available tests as an admissions measure. In its study, the Board of Governors may consider eliminating, continuing, or changing the emphasis placed on the SAT and ACT Assessment as an admissions measure for North Carolina students applying to the State's constituent institutions. The

Board of Governors may also consider methods for accurately comparing the academic performance of applicants who do not have the benefit of the State's end-of-course testing program with applicants who do have the State's testing program.

Recommendations should be made to improve the consistency and fairness of each measure independently and as used together for admissions decisions. These recommendations may include the use of North Carolina end-of-course tests as an element in admissions decisions alone or in combination with a change of the weight of emphasis on the SAT and ACT Assessment. The recommendations may also include maintaining the current process.

The Board of Governors may review with the State Board of Education recommendations that incorporate end-of-course testing as part of the admissions process. The State Board of Education may develop recommendations to improve the alignment of end-of-course tests and secondary coursework with the expectations of the constituent institutions and the State Board of Community Colleges.

- (2) Placement. – The Board of Governors may consider reviewing the assessment methods currently used by constituent institutions for remediation placement decisions. Recommendations may be developed to provide greater consistency, reliability, and validity for remediation decisions. North Carolina end-of-course tests may be considered for use in these decisions.
- (3) Advanced placement testing. – The Board of Governors may review the use of test scores in granting college-level course credit by constituent institutions.
- (4) Other relevant issues. – The Board of Governors may study any other issues relevant to college and university admissions, placement, and advanced placement measures.

SECTION 1.(c) The Board of Governors may make an interim report regarding its studies and plans to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than March 1, 2002, and shall submit a final report to that Committee by December 1, 2003. It is recommended that the study continue beyond the final report date. Interim and final reports of the Committee may include recommended legislation.

SECTION 2. Article 1 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115D-1.1. Discretion in admissions.

(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-1, a student under the age of 16 may enroll in a community college if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The president of the community college or the president's designee finds, based on criteria established by the State Board of Community Colleges, that the student is intellectually gifted and that the student has the maturity to justify admission to the community college; and
- (2) One of the following persons approves the student's enrollment in a community college:
 - a. The local board of education, or the board's designee, for the public school administrative unit in which the student is enrolled.
 - b. The administrator, or the administrator's designee, of the nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled.
 - c. The person who provides the academic instruction in the home school in which the student is enrolled.
 - d. The designee of the board of directors of the charter school in which the student is enrolled.

(b) The State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, shall adopt rules to implement this section."

SECTION 3. G.S. 95-25.5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, youths who are enrolled at an institution of higher education may be employed by the institution provided the employment is not hazardous. As used in this subsection, "institution of higher education" means any constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, any North Carolina community college, or any college or university that awards postsecondary degrees."

SECTION 4. Section 2 of this act is effective when it becomes law, and shall apply to the 2001-2002 academic year. Section 2 of this act expires September 1, 2004. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 18th day of July, 2001.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved _____, m. this _____ day of _____, 2001

Interim Report For House Bill 1246

Initial Steps

An initial meeting was held with representatives from UNC, the North Carolina Community College System, and the Department of Public Instruction on October 10, 2001. There was a general discussion about the bill and the study to be conducted. Possible data that could be used to address the issues was shared by each participating agency. The university and DPI officials agreed to share data sets that might be used for the study by the next meeting. Also, participants were asked to check with their respective president or state superintendent on representatives that should serve on the Study Committee.

A second meeting was held with the same representatives on December 18, 2001. The Group discussed the following items:

- Status report on sharing data between UNC and DPI;
- Data that will be needed from individual UNC campuses;
- Research studies in the field to be reviewed;
- Recommendations for representatives to serve on the Study Committee; and
- Tentative timeline for next steps and report dates.

The Study Committee has now been established by President Broad, President Lancaster, and Superintendent Ward. The committee membership is provided in Attachment 1. The Committee is scheduled to meet March 14, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the UNC General Administration Building in Chapel Hill.

Next Steps

The next series of steps will be to collect the available data that is currently used in making decisions for admissions, placement, and advanced placement. Each campus has been asked to provide an initial set of information in these areas (see Attachment 2).

In addition, the Study Committee has asked DPI to provide a summary of available data sets, such as end-of-course or end-of-grade data that could be examined as potential predictors for decision-making.

Once the complete set of data that is available for analyses is known, the Study Committee will review the current research in the field and determine a set of studies to be conducted with the available data. Results of these preliminary analyses will be used to guide future steps in the study.

In addition, input will be sought from Directors of Admissions, school counselors, and other groups, as needed. Periodic updates will be provided to the three governing boards.

Timeline

The study will continue over the next several months with regular meetings of the Study Committee. Reports will be presented at least twice each year to the Directors of Admissions and the Chief Academic Officers to ask for their feedback and insights on each of the three areas under study.

A final report and any related recommendations will be made to the Board of Governors in the Fall of 2003 so that a final report can be given to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 1, 2003.

RCK 1/28/02

HB 1246 Study Committee Roster

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MEMORANDUM

To: Directors of Admissions

From: Robert C. Kanoy *RCK*

Date: January 14, 2002

Re: Data needed for HB 1246 Study

As you know, HB 1246 requires the Board of Governors, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges, to conduct a study on the measures used for admissions, placement, and advanced placement decisions.

In preparation of the study, George Dixon and Harry Williams have been meeting with a study group. The official Study Committee will be appointed in the coming weeks (and I expect George and Harry will both serve on the committee).

At this time, I need to ask your help with two pieces of data. Attached are two forms to insert information on how admissions and placement decisions are made. Please feel free to include any additional information you feel the committee should review.

Please return both forms and any additional materials to me by **Friday, February 1, 2002**. Thank you for your help and as soon as the committee has been officially appointed, I will send along a copy of the roster.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

RCK/jam

cc: Senior Vice President Bataille

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina School of the Arts

North Carolina State University at Raleigh

University of North Carolina at Asheville

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Western Carolina University

Winston-Salem University

Yonkers University

Part I – Admissions

Please briefly describe your campus' process for making admissions decisions. If a formula is used, please describe the variables used and weights given to these factors. Feel free to attach any additional materials you think the Study Committee should review.

Part II – Placement

Please indicate for each subject area if a freshman placement test/instrument is used (specify the test) and briefly describe how it is used in making the freshman placement decision.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Instrument used For Placement</u>	<u>Comments/Explanations</u>
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1) English		
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2) Math		
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3) Second Language		
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4) Science		
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5) Other: _____		
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