



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 29: Technical Changes to Courses of Study Statute

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12	Date:	March 17, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. L. Johnson, Glazier, Holloway, Horn	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H29-CSTC-2		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: House Bill 29 would repeal G.S. 115C-81, G.S. 115C 81.1, G.S. 115C 81.3, and G.S. 115C 81.4, remove outdated references to the Basic Education Program, and recodify the substantive contents of the repealed statutes. The PCS for HB 29 would make the following changes:

- Add reference in G.S. 115C-81.5 to adoption of a plan of education by the State Board of Education.
- Delete the term "English language" in G.S. 115C-81.5 to remain consistent with text from repealed G.S. 115C-81.
- Clarify in G.S. 115C-81.20 that alcohol and drug use prevention education program must be approved, consistent with text in repealed G.S. 115C-81.
- Consistently use the word "illegal" rather than "illicit" to refer to instruction about illegal drugs.
- Clarify the types of instruction required for Disability and Health Awareness month instruction consistent with text in repealed G.S. 115C-81.
- Makes conforming changes to clarify statutory references.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-81 (Basic Education Program) was enacted in S.L. 1985-479 (the 1985 Budget) as part of a program to "define a common core of knowledge and skills that each student should master prior to graduation from high school." The statute requires the State Board to adopt a "Basic Education Program" for the public schools of the State which describes the education program to be offered to every child in the public schools. In addition to the general requirements for the standard course of study, the statute contains additional provisions related to topics such as alcohol and drug education, school health, civics literacy, and character education.

G.S. 115C 81.1 (Basic Education Program Funds not to supplant Local funds for schools) requires local school administrative units to not supplant additional state funds provided for vocational and technical education programs and clerical personnel positions previously funded in whole or in part with non-state funds.

G.S. 115C 81.3 (Instruction in American Sign Language) encourages schools to offer American Sign Language (ASL) classes in high schools as a modern foreign language, and requires certification standards for ASL teachers.

G.S. 115C 81.4 requires each local board of education to certify that its high school and middle school science laboratories are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment for students and teachers and ensure that high schools and middle schools comply with all State Board of Education policies related to science laboratory safety.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 29 repeals G.S. 115C-81, G.S. 115C-81.1, G.S. 115C-81.3, and G.S. 115C-81.4 and recodifies the substantive provisions of those statutes. The majority of the statutes are recodified in G.S.115C-81.5 through G.S. 115C-81.85. The recodification separates topics previously organized as subsections in G.S. 115C-81. The PCS would also removes references to the Basic Education Plan and replaces that term with the term "standard course of study," and makes conforming changes to other statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 29 would become effective when it becomes law.

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Director



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