



HOUSE BILL 587: School Flexibility Act

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

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Education - K-12
Introduced by: Reps. Lambeth, Stam
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: April 28, 2015
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SUMMARY: *House Bill 587 would direct the Department of Public Instruction to conduct workshops around the State on school reform models and budget flexibility allowed under current law.*

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-105.37B, the State Board of Education (SBE) has the authority to approve a local board of education's (local board) request to reform any school in its local school administrative unit (LEA) that has been identified by the SBE as continually low-performing. One of four reform models could be used: (i) transformation model which addresses developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness, instructional reform strategies, increasing learning time, and more operational flexibility; (ii) restart model which allows the school to be operated with the same exemptions as charter schools except as to the employees who remain employed by the local board; (iii) turnaround model which involves replacing the principal and staff; and (iv) school closure model which closes the school and enrolls the students in other schools in the LEA.

Under G.S. 115C-105.25, local boards are allowed to transfer funds between funding allotment categories except in certain situations such as funds for children with disabilities. Funds cannot be transferred into the central office administration allotment category and other limitations are also set forth in the statute.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 587 would direct the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to conduct professional development workshops at least annually for superintendents and their designees on the four school reform models and budget flexibility allowed under law. The workshops should focus on the restart model which allows the local board to operate a school with the flexibility given to charter schools but the local board maintains control of the school.

The bill also directs the SBE to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by November 15, 2015 with recommendations on (i) improving the teacher licensing process in the areas of establishing initial pay for teachers who have been hired but their request for a North Carolina teachers license has not been processed; (ii) efforts to automate the teacher licensing process; (iii) changes to the lateral entry process for teachers; (iv) whether to accept federal funds under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C., Chapter 70, Subchapter II, which requires highly-qualified teachers in core subject areas; and (v) streamlining the teacher licensing process.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill becomes effective July 1, 2015.

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