



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

# SENATE BILL 400: School Access for Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Education/Higher Education	<b>Date:</b>	April 28, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Barringer, Daniel, Newton	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Drupti Chauhan Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition S400-CSRQ-5		

**SUMMARY:** *Senate Bill 400 directs local boards of education (local boards) to encourage schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. The bill also encourages charter schools and regional schools to facilitate this type of access.*

*The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) would move the provisions to Article 13 of Chapter 115C, which is the Community Schools Act, and directs local boards to give priority in the use of school facilities to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under the Community Schools Act, greater community involvement in the public schools is encouraged along with greater use of public school facilities. The State Board of Education (SBE) must adopt policies and guidelines based on the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage increased community involvement in the public schools and the use of public school facilities. Local boards must then develop programs and plans for increased community use of the facilities.

Several local boards (such as the Hoke County School Board) have policies on community use of schools facilities that include scouts in a list of priority users.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS would move the local board provisions in Section 1 of the PCS to Article 13 of the Community Schools Act which addresses increased community involvement in public schools as well as greater community use of public school facilities. Local boards would be directed to give priority in the use of school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America and their affiliated groups and councils in order to encourage the schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by these groups at times other than instructional time during the school day.

Sections 3 and 4 of the PCS would encourage charter schools and regional schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at times other than instructional time during the school day.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law.

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