



HOUSE BILL 665: NC Completes College/Competitive Workforce.

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

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Fraley	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 665 would do the following: (i) establish the summer course scholarship program; (ii) establish the transfer credit scholarship program; (iii) appropriate funds to the Transfer Advisory Committee and the Military Credit Advisory Council; (iv) appropriate funds to The University of North Carolina for increasing summer enrollment and for the adoption of high-quality open educational resources materials; (v) appropriate funds to the Community College System Office for eliminating full-time equivalent (FTE) determination disparity, the development of an online registration system for continuing education courses, and the operation of various campuses; and (vi) make adjustments to the matching requirement for the receipt of funds for a NC Career Coach.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.1 would appropriate an additional \$43,578,223 in recurring funds for enrollment adjustments for The University of North Carolina (UNC) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to increase graduation rates and reduce time to degree by expanding the number of and enrollment in on-campus undergraduate summer courses offered at constituent institutions. For subsequent fiscal years, the annual enrollment growth request from UNC would be required to reflect incremental changes in the actual credit hours completed in the fall, spring, and summer terms.

Section 1.2 would create the NC College Competes Scholarship (Scholarship). To be eligible for a Scholarship, a student would have to be enrolled in a constituent institution of UNC or a community college. The State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) would be required to give priority in the award of Scholarships to students with financial need and who can use summer courses to earn 30 credits in the academic year or accelerate their path to a degree. The Board of Governors and the President of UNC would establish guidance for SEAA for awarding Scholarships to students enrolled in the constituent institutions, and the State Board of Community Colleges and the President of the Community College System would establish guidance for SEAA for awarding Scholarships to students enrolled in community colleges.

This section would also appropriate \$10,000,000 in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allocate to SEAA for providing Scholarships, with \$7,000,000 for students enrolled in constituent institutions and \$3,000,000 for students enrolled in community colleges. Section 1.2 applies beginning with the 2020 summer term.

Section 2.1 would create the transfer credit scholarship program (Program). Students would be eligible for a scholarship under the Program if they: (i) receive an eligible college transfer associate degree from a community college and (ii) transfer to a constituent institution within 12 months of receiving the associate degree. The scholarships awarded under this Program would be up to \$1,000.

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For the purposes of this Program, an "eligible college transfer associate degree" would be one covered by an articulation agreement entered into by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges. The Board of Governors and the President of UNC would set any additional eligibility criteria for students, including students that participate in co-admission or dual enrollment programs, or dual admission programs between constituent institutions and community colleges.

This section would appropriate \$4,000,000 in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allocate to SEAA to establish the Program.

This section would apply beginning with the award of scholarship funds for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Section 2.2 would appropriate \$150,000 in recurring funds and \$200,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Board of Governors to support the work for the Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Military Credit Advisory Council (MCAC). The funds would be used to accelerate the efforts of TAC and MCAC to create new pathways programs, engage in site reviews, evaluate additional military occupations and courses for credits, and build a searchable database of military credit equivalencies.

Section 2.3 would appropriate \$300,000 in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Board of Governors to reduce student textbook costs through the curation and adoption by The University of North Carolina System Office (UNC System Office) of high-quality open educational resources materials for the most commonly taught courses across constituent institutions and community colleges.

In curating and adopting high-quality open education resources, the UNC System Office would give priority to those courses that universally transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement entered into by the Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges.

Section 3.1 would appropriate \$11,520,449 in additional recurring funds to the Community Colleges System Office for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for short-term workforce training continuing education programs that lead to a State- or industry-recognized credential. These funds would be used to eliminate the FTE determination disparity between short-term workforce training programs and curriculum programs.

Section 3.2 would appropriate \$5,000,000 in recurring funds and \$1,500,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Community Colleges System Office for the purchase of an online registration system for continuing education courses.

Section 3.3 would appropriate \$566,587 each in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Community Colleges System Office for the operation of the following:

- The Forsyth Technical Community College Transportation Technology Center.
- The Guilford Technical Community College Aviation Campus.
- The Richmond Community College Scotland County Campus.
- The Wake Technical Community College Research Triangle Park Campus.

Section 4.1 would adjust the local match requirements for the NC Career Coach program. Currently, in order to receive funding from the Community Colleges System Office, the board of trustees of a community college and the local board of education of a local school administrative unit within the service area of the community college applying for funding for a NC Career Coach must provide evidence showing that there will be a dollar-for-dollar match of local to State funds.

This section would create a differentiated matching scheme based on whether the community college's main campus is located in a tier one, tier two, or tier three county, as defined by G.S. 143B-437.08. The new scheme would be as follows:

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- No local match if located in a tier one county.
- \$1.00 of local funds to \$2.00 of State funds if located in a tier two county.
- \$1.00 of local funds to \$1.00 of State funds if located in a tier three county.

Section 4.2 would appropriate \$2,800,000 in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Community Colleges System Office to support the NC Career Coach Program. These funds would be used to place additional community college career coaches in public high schools.

Sections 4.1 and 4.2 would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 665 would become effective July 1, 2019.