



HOUSE BILL 668: Various Higher Education Changes.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - Universities. If favorable, re-refer to Education - Community Colleges. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 16, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Fraley	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *HB 668 would make various changes to laws related to community colleges and The University of North Carolina.*

CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS:

PART I: North Carolina Community College System

Section 1.1(a)-(c) and (e): The State Board of Community Colleges is required to report annually on tuition waivers, the Customized Training Program, certain capital projects for constitution institutions, and the voluntary shared leave program.

Section 1.1(a)-(c) and (e) would change the reporting entity for these reports from the State Board of Community Colleges to the Community College System Office, and specify September 1 as the date for the Customized Training Program report to be submitted.

Section 1.1(d): The Apprenticeship Council is required to report annually on its activities to several committees at the General Assembly focused on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources.

Section 1.1(d) directs the Apprenticeship Council report to instead come to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees on Education.

Section 1.2: G.S. 115D-58.10 requires the State Board of Community Colleges to determine which State and community college employees must give bonds for the protection of State funds and property, and authorizes the State Board to place the bonds and pay the premiums from State funds. The statute also requires boards of trustees of community colleges to bond all employees permitted to draw on local funds or handle institutional funds or property.

Section 1.2 would allow the State Board of Education and local boards of trustees to determine and use adequate insurance coverage in place of bonds for employees handling institutional funds and property.

Section 1.3. The 2017 and 2018 budgets (SL 2017-57 and SL 2018-5) authorized the President of the Community College System Office to reorganize the System Office in accordance with recommendations and plans submitted to and approved by the State Board of Community Colleges. Any such reorganization was required to be reported annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, Fiscal Research Division, and the House and Senate Appropriation subcommittees on Education.

Section 1.3 would codify the President's authority to reorganize the System Office in accordance with recommendations and plans submitted to and approved by the State Board of Community Colleges, and

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House Bill 668

Page 2

require reports on such reorganizations to be reported annually by March 1 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

This section would become effective July 1, 2019.

Part II: University of North Carolina System

Sec. 2.1: Currently, 5 educator preparation programs that meet stringent standards of selection may be selected as institutions of higher education for the North Carolina Teaching Fellow Program (NCTFP). The NCTFP is awarded to students preparing to teach in the public schools of the State in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) or special education licensure areas.

Section 2.1 would allow up to 8 institutions of higher education to be selected to represent a diverse selection of public and private institutions. The same stringent standards of selection would be applied to this selection. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the scholarship can be awarded to students who change to an approved program in STEM or special education, regardless of whether they are already in a selected educator program or changing from another major at the institution.

This section becomes effective July 1, 2019. The expansion to 8 campuses applies beginning with loans offered for the 2020-2021 school year. The clarification on scholarships awards when students change programs applies to loans awarded for the 2019-2020 school year.

Sec. 2.2(a): Currently, the local school administrative unit (LEA) in which a laboratory school is located is required to provide food services and transportation to student attending the laboratory school.

Sec. 2.2(a) would clarify that the transportation requirement applies to homeless children in the LEA, and applies regardless of local transportation policies and practices, or where the students attending the lab school reside in the LEA. It would also require the LEA to provide transportation for extracurricular activities and educational trips in the same manner as for other schools in the LEA.

Subsection (a) would also require the LEA to administer, at its cost, the National School Lunch Program for the lab school.

This section applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Sec. 2.2(b): Currently, Chapter 115C provides immunity to local boards of education in several areas, including specific immunity for death or injury caused by negligence or tort of an employee or agent of a board of education, except to the extent waived by insurance (G.S. 115C-42), criminal history employee checks (G.S. 115C-332), employment actions related to low-performing schools (G.S. 115C-333 and -333.1), and in providing certain medical care to students (G.S. 115C-375.1, -375.2, -375.2A).

Sec. 2.2(b) would grant the same immunities provided in Chapter 115C (Education) of the General Statutes to the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, local boards of education, local school administrative units, and their members and employees to laboratory schools and the Chapter 115C counterparts operating lab schools.

This section applies to an act or omission of an action occurring on or after the date this act becomes law.

Sec. 2.2 (c)-(e): Currently, the Board of Governors is required to select 9 constituent institutions to establish and operate lab schools.

Sec. 2.2 (c)-(e) would reduce the number of lab schools from 9 to 6.

Sec. 2.3: Currently, Future Teachers of North Carolina (FTNC) provides the curricula and professional development for high school courses on the profession of teaching, including field experiences for high school students. 3 constituent institutions are designated to collaborate on FTNC. All high schools are

House Bill 668

Page 3

encouraged to offer FTNC courses in partnership with an institution of higher education, and students who complete the courses with a B or higher earn dual credit from a constituent institution partner.

Sec. 2.3 would eliminate the current FTNC program, and replace it with an annual symposium for high school juniors and seniors that is selective and application based. The FTNC symposium would be administered by the UNC System Office in coordination with a FTNC Council selected by the UNC President. The System Office would annually report on participations and demographic information, a description of the event, and student survey responses following the symposium.

Sec. 2.4: The UNC Board of Governors Planning Task Force is required to conduct a systemwide analysis of the capital needs of constituent institutions for STEM. The Task Force was appropriated \$3 million to use in conducting the analysis. The Task Force was to report on the UNC System Plan to the Joint Legislative Capital Improvements Oversight Committee and Fiscal Research Division by April 1, 2019.

Sec. 2.4 would require the Task Force to submit an initial report by April 1, 2019, and a final report by February 1, 2020. It would also allow the \$3 million to not revert and remain available through the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

This section would become effective June 30, 2019.

Sec. 2.5 would allow funds appropriated for enrollment adjustments for The University of North Carolina to a reserve account to not revert but remain available until the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the purposes of the buy down of financial obligations resulting from the NC Promise program at Elizabeth City State University, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western Carolina University.

This section becomes effective June 30, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, HB 668 would become effective when it becomes law.