



HOUSE BILL 895: Opportunity Gap Task Force.

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

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 30, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Blackwell, Brockman, Horn, Meyer	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H895-CSBN-14		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 895 would establish the Opportunity Gap Task Force (Task Force). The PCS to House Bill 895 would do the following:*

- Remove the Executive Director of NC Child as a member, and instead require that the Executive Director of the NC Association for Public Charter Schools be a member of the Task Force.
- Require the Task Force to consider the effective access to and use of technology, including (i) connectivity for students and their families, (ii) devices, and (iii) software.
- Require the Task Force to extend invitations to receive input from (i) the Executive Director of NC Child and (ii) The President of Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina.
- Change the submission deadline of the final report of the Task Force from September 1, 2020, to December 1, 2020, and provide that the Task Force terminates on December 1, 2020, rather than September 1, 2020.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 895 would establish the Task Force consisting of 14 members. These appointments would have to be made by August 1, 2019. The Speaker and the President Pro Tempore would each select a co-chair of the Task Force. The Task Force would meet upon the call of the co-chairs, with the first meeting no later than September 1, 2019.

For the purposes of the Task Force, "opportunity gap" would mean "the significant disparity in the academic performance and postsecondary readiness of students between any of the following subgroups: races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, gender, English-language proficiencies, and urban, rural, or suburban domiciles."

The Task Force would be required to do the following: (i) study the opportunity gap, (ii) consider effective approaches and best practices from across the country to close the opportunity gap in grades kindergarten through 12, and (iii) propose a plan to reduce the opportunity gap for all subgroups by July 1, 2030. The Task Force would be required to consider specific topics and invite input from specific groups, as outlined in the PCS.

In its proposed plan to reduce the opportunity gap for all subgroups, the Task Force would include all of the following: (i) information identifying opportunity gaps that exist between races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, gender, English-language proficiencies, and urban, rural, or suburban domiciles; (ii) recommendations for closing or significantly reducing the opportunity gaps identified by the Task Force; and (iii) benchmarks for implementation of the proposed plan.

The final report, including the proposed plan, would have to be submitted by December 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Task Force would terminate upon the filing of the report, or December 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 895 would become effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578