



SENATE BILL 343: Various Education Law Changes.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 5, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-165		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-165 makes changes to various education reports including date changes, repeals of certain reports, and modifications of information to be reported. It also (i) clarifies the Education Workforce Innovation Commission's membership, (ii) staggers the appointments to the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, and (iii) exempts the State Board's actions regarding charter schools from contested case laws.*

This act became effective July 26, 2019, except as otherwise provided in the act.

BILL ANALYSIS

PART I. REPEAL CERTAIN EDUCATION REPORTS

Part I of the act repeals the following reports:

- An annual report from the Education Cabinet on STEM education activities.
- An annual report from the Education Cabinet on the School Connectivity Initiative.
- An annual report from the Education Cabinet on the First in America Innovative Education Initiatives Act of 2004.
- A report from the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) on start-up funds for high cost workforce courses because the funds were re-allocated per the SBCC and the North Carolina Community College System Office's request in 2018.
- An annual report from the SBCC on all new programs it approves, the progress made on implementing regional programs, and program terminations.

This Part directs the SBCC to consider whether a regional approach can be used in developing new programs and to initiate regional programs to the extent possible. The SBCC must collect data annually on new programs, program terminations, and any regionalization of programs, including the specific reasons for which each program was approved or terminated.

PART II. REPORT DATE CHANGES

Part II of the act makes changes to the dates that various education reports are due:

- The due date for the annual report from the State Board of Education (SBE) on testing moves from November 1 to December 15.
- The due date for the annual report from the SBE on charter schools moves from January 15 to February 15.

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Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

Senate Bill 343

Page 2

- The Community College System Office rather than the SBCC must report on the Customized Training Program by September 1 of each year. The Community College System Office rather than the SBCC must report to the State Building Commission on certain capital projects by October 1 of each year.
- The quarterly report required from the Governmental Data Analytics Center on the Longitudinal Data System becomes an annual report and the due date is changed to July 1.

PART III. VARIOUS EDUCATION REPORT CHANGES

Part III of the act makes changes to the reporting requirements for certain education reports:

- Two reports on students with disabilities are combined into one report that is due annually on October 15.
- The SBE report on the number of students in career and technical education courses who earned community college credit and related industry certifications and credentials is combined with the SBE report on the impact of awarding college and career endorsements on the high school diplomas on high school graduation, college acceptance and remediation, and post-high school employment rates.
- The annual report on the evaluation of cooperative innovative high schools is combined with the annual report on Career and College Promise, including the College Transfer pathway and the Career and Technical Education pathway.
- The Community College System Office rather than the SBCC must report on the number and types of tuition waivers granted.
- The Apprenticeship Council must submit its annual report on September 1 and no longer has to submit it to Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources or the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources.
- Teach for America, Inc. (TFA) must report annually to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC), and the Fiscal Research Division on various information about the program, including the percentage of candidates who are North Carolina residents and become principals in a North Carolina public school following the initial TFA two-year commitment period. Quarterly updates no longer have to be submitted.
- Instead of the SBCC and the SBE, the Community College System Office and the Department of Public Instruction must now report to the Office of State Human Resources on the voluntary shared leave program.

PART IV. REPORT ON SCHOOL START AND END DATES

Part IV of the act requires local boards of education to report annually by April 1 to the State Superintendent and the SBE on the start and end dates of the instructional calendar for students. In this report, local boards of education must identify the statutory exception that authorizes an earlier start date for all schools that begin earlier than the Monday closest to August 26. The SBE must then report this information to the JLEOC by June 15 of each year. Local boards of education must report the information

Senate Bill 343

Page 3

for the 2019-2020 school year by August 1, 2019, and the SBE must report to the JLEOC by September 1, 2019.

PART V. CLARIFY EDUCATION WORKFORCE INNOVATION COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Part V of the act allows the Secretary of Commerce, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chair of the SBE, and the President of the North Carolina Community College System to have their designees as members of the Education Workforce Innovation Commission.

PART VI. STAGGER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND STANDARDS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Part VI of the act changes the initial term for some of the members of the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission from two years to three years in order to create a board with staggered terms. Once the initial terms expire, all new appointments will be for two year terms.

PART VII. EXEMPT STATE BOARD CHARTER ACTIONS FROM CONTESTED CASE LAWS

Part VII of the act exempts SBE actions related to disapproval, termination, renewal, or nonrenewal of charters for charter schools from the type of contested case that could be subject to the jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective July 26, 2019, except as otherwise provided in the act.