OVERVIEW: Section 8.17 of S.L. 2021-180 requires the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina (BOG) to contract with an independent research organization (IRO) to conduct an evaluation of its current programs at each constituent institution of The University of North Carolina related to its operational costs, student outcomes, and return on investment (ROI) of each program. The evaluation must include an analysis of at least the following information by constituent institution and undergraduate and graduate degree programs:

- The number of students in each program.
- The number of faculty and other staff employed for each program.
- The related costs to operate each program.
- A detailed correlation between degree of study and directly related career roles and associated expected starting compensation, as well as expected career earnings for students upon completion of those programs.
- A detailed ROI for each program.
- ROI for State funding expenditures.
- ROI for student funding expenditures.

By November 18, 2023, the BOG must report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly on the results of the evaluation.

This section became effective July 1, 2021.