



# SENATE BILL 125: Various Education Changes.

2025-2026 General Assembly

|                       |                          |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Committee:</b>     |                          | <b>Date:</b>        | June 12, 2025       |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sens. Lee, Corbin, Jones | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Samantha Yarborough |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | Third Edition            |                     | Committee Counsel   |

**OVERVIEW:** *The Third Edition of Senate Bill 125 would reorganize Chapter 115D of the General Statutes, make necessary conforming changes, make various changes to the statutes governing community colleges, allow certain nonpublic schools to request residency licenses for teachers, and extend the reversion date for school safety grant funds.*

## PARTS I and II: REORGANIZATION OF CHAPTER 115D AND CONFORMING CHANGES

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes governs the North Carolina Community Colleges System.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Part I of Senate Bill 125 reorganizes Chapter 115D as follows:

- Breaks Article 1, "General Provisions for State Administration," into four parts: 1. Establishment and Administration of the North Carolina Community Colleges System, 2. Administration of Local Community Colleges by State Board of Community Colleges, 3. Community College Programs, and 4. Students.
- Creates a new Article 2B, "High School Programs."
- Breaks Article 3, "Financial Support," into two parts: 1. Funding of Community Colleges and 2. Tuition and Fees.
- Repeals and recodifies statutes to place them in the appropriate Article and Part.

Part II makes the necessary conforming changes to reflect the reorganization of Chapter 115D.

## PART II.5: VARIOUS STATUTORY CHANGES

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 115D-5.1 (G.S. 115D-10.17 under the reorganization) establishes the Customized Training Program at the North Carolina Community Colleges System to assist new and existing businesses and industry in the State and allows the State Board to approve the use of up to 8% of the funds appropriated for the Program for training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Program services.

G.S. 115D-20(4) (G.S. 115D-30.1 under the reorganization) allows local community colleges to collaborate with public school units and nonpublic schools to offer academic transition pathways (CTE pathways) for qualified high school students. Freshmen and Sophomore high school students can participate in pathways in (i) industrial and engineering technologies, (ii) agriculture and natural resources, (iii) transportation technology, (iv) construction, or (v) business technologies.

Kara McCraw  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

# Senate Bill 125

Page 2

The Career and College Ready Graduate program provides developmental mathematics and English curricula to students in their senior year of high school or the preceding summer to better prepare the students for college and career success. This program is currently uncoded and exists in various session laws.

G.S. 115D-21.5 (G.S. 115D-30.25 under the reorganization) establishes the NC Career Coach Program to place community college career coaches in high schools to assist students with determining career goals and identifying community college programs that would enable students to achieve these goals.

G.S. 115D-31.3 requires the State Board of Community Colleges to adopt and implement a system of accountability measures and performance standards for each college. The State Board must evaluate each college on a number of performance measures, including the success rate of students in credit-bearing Math courses.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Part II.5 would do the following:

- Allow the State Board of Community Colleges to approve the use of up to 15% of the funds appropriated for the Customized Training Program for the training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Program services.
- Allow all qualified high school students to participate in the CTE pathways, removing the restriction to specific pathways for Freshmen and Sophomore students.
- Codify the Career and College Ready Graduate program as a pathway under the Career and College Promise program and allow high school juniors to participate, including during the summer preceding their junior year.
- Allow the Community Colleges System Office to use up to 4% of the funds appropriated for the NC Career Coach Program for administrative costs, including staffing, professional development, and program management and evaluation.
- Allow the State Board of Community Colleges to evaluate the success rate of students in credit-bearing Math or Science course.

Part II.5 would become effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

## **PART III: RESIDENCY LICENSES FOR CERTAIN NONPUBLIC EC TEACHERS**

**CURRENT LAW:** A residency license is a one-year teaching license that can be renewed twice. G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(5) authorizes the governing body of a public school unit to request a residency license for an individual if the individual meets all of the following requirements:

- Holds a bachelor's degree or advanced degree.
- Has completed coursework related to the requested licensure area or has passed a related content examination.
- Is enrolled in a recognized educator preparation program.

Parts 1 and 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes establish the requirements that nonpublic schools, excluding home schools, must meet.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** In addition to the governing body of a public school unit, Part III would authorize certain nonpublic schools to request a residency license. The nonpublic school would be authorized to request a residency license if it meets both of the following:

# Senate Bill 125

Page 3

- Meets the nonpublic school requirements in either Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
- Is approved and monitored by the Department of Public Instruction to provide special education and related services pursuant to a student's individualized education program (IEP).

Part III would be effective when it becomes law and apply to applications for residency licenses occurring on or after that date.

## **PART IV: EXTEND REVERSION DATE FOR SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT FUNDS**

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 7.36 of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Sections 3J.12 and 3J.17(h) of S.L. 2024-57, provides funding for the School Safety Grants Program to improve safety in public school units by providing grants for services for students in crisis, school safety training, safety equipment in schools, and subsidizing the School Resource Officer Grants Program through an application process administered by the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools. The funds appropriated for the School Safety Grants Program revert to the General Fund on June 30, 2025.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Part IV would extend the reversion date for the funds appropriated for the School Safety Grants Program to June 30, 2027.

Part IV would become effective June 30, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, Senate Bill 125 would be effective when it becomes law.