

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 520*

Short Title: School Ethics Training & Finance Officers. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Ballard, Edwards, and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 3, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ETHICS TRAINING FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND
3 TO REQUIRE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SCHOOL FINANCE OFFICERS'
4 EMPLOYMENT TO MIRROR THOSE OF ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE
5 SUPERINTENDENTS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Article 22 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
8 adding a new Part to read:

9 "Part 10. Employee Ethics Training.

10 **"§ 115C-335.15. Ethics training for certain school employees.**

11 All school employees involved in the making or administering of contracts, as defined in
12 G.S. 14-234(b), shall receive a minimum of two hours of ethics training, as follows:

- 13 (1) The training shall be required once in every odd-numbered year.
14 (2) Upon assuming the responsibility of making or administering contracts, a
15 school employee shall receive an initial training within 90 days and
16 subsequent trainings in every odd-numbered year thereafter.
17 (3) The training shall include position-specific education on conflicts of interest
18 and ethical standards of conduct.
19 (4) The training may be provided by the North Carolina Association of School
20 Administrators, the North Carolina School Boards Association, the School of
21 Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or other
22 qualified sources at the choice of the local board of education."

23 **SECTION 1.(b)** All school employees involved in the making or administering of
24 contracts as of the effective date of this act shall receive an initial training to comply with
25 G.S. 115C-335.15, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section, within six months of the effective
26 date of this act.

27 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-435 reads as rewritten:

28 **"§ 115C-435. School finance officer.**

29 Each local school administrative unit shall have a school finance officer who shall be
30 appointed or designated by the superintendent of schools and approved by the board of ~~education,~~
31 ~~with the school finance officer serving at the pleasure of the superintendent.~~ education. The terms
32 and conditions of employment for school finance officers shall mirror the terms and conditions
33 of employment for assistant superintendents and associate superintendents insofar as they are
34 outlined in subsections (b) and (c) of G.S. 115C-278. The duties of school finance officer may
35 be conferred on any officer or employee of the local school administrative unit or, upon request
36 of the superintendent, with approval by the board of education and the board of county



1 commissioners, on the county finance officer. In counties where there is more than one local
2 school administrative unit, the duties of finance officer may be conferred on any one officer or
3 employee of the several local school administrative units by agreement between the affected
4 superintendents with the concurrence of the affected board of education and the board of county
5 commissioners. The position of school finance officer is hereby declared to be an office that may
6 be held concurrently with other appointive, but not elective, offices pursuant to Article VI, Sec.
7 9, of the Constitution."

8 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-278 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 115C-278. Assistant superintendent and associate superintendent.**

10 (a) Local boards of education shall have authority to employ an assistant superintendent,
11 in addition to those that may be furnished by the State when, in the discretion of the board of
12 education, the schools of the administrative unit can thereby be more efficiently and more
13 economically operated and when funds for the same are provided in the current expense fund
14 budget. The duties of such assistant superintendent shall be assigned by the superintendent with
15 the approval of the board of education.

16 (b) Local boards of education may, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, elect
17 assistant or associate superintendents for a term of from one to four years. The term may not,
18 however, exceed the expiration date of the superintendent's contract, unless the remaining time
19 of the superintendent's contract is less than one year. If there is less than one year remaining on
20 the superintendent's contract, the assistant or associate superintendent shall be given a contract
21 through the next school year.

22 (c) The term of employment shall be stated in a written contract which shall be entered
23 into between the board of education and the assistant or associate superintendent, a copy of which
24 shall be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a matter of information. The
25 assistant or associate superintendent may not be dismissed during the term to which he is elected
26 except for misconduct of such a nature as to indicate he is unfit to continue in his position,
27 incompetence, neglect of duty, or failure or refusal to carry out validly assigned duties."

28 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.