

North Carolina PTA



LEGISLATIVE REPORT



MARCH 30, 2007

PREPARED FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA PTA

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Rachel Lawrence

YOUTH MEMBER:

Betsy Overman

STATE OFFICE STAFF:

Nellie Taylor, Office
Coordinator
Traci Dunbar,
Administrative Assistant

Gerry Hancock
General Counsel
(919) 755-0025
gerry@eghs.com

Ashley Matlock
Associate Attorney
(919) 755-0025
Ashley@eghs.com

JOINT EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Joint Education Appropriations Committee this week discussed formulas for funds for staff development programs and programs for academically or intellectually gifted students. The Committee determined that it should further study formulas for these programs. We will continue to inform you as the committee reviews the formulas for these important programs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION MEETING

The House Committee on Education approved a bill, House Bill 359 that would make it easier for schools to open before August 25th each year. Under the current law, individual schools cannot open before August 25th unless they receive an "educational purpose" waiver. House Bill 359 expands the number of "educational purposes" that the State Board may grant system-wide waivers for.

BILLS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

House Bill 137. This Bill would appropriate \$25 million for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to increase the supplemental funding for children with disabilities.

Senate Bill 753 (= HB 626). This Bill would make October Disability History and Awareness month in North Carolina.

Senate Bill 1086. This Bill would require local boards of education to adopt written policies prohibiting the use of tobacco products by any person in public school buildings and school facilities, on the public school campus, and in or on other school property. NCPTA's *Where We Stand* encourages local educational agencies to adopt a 100% tobacco-free policy prohibiting tobacco use by anyone, anywhere, at any time on all school grounds, vehicles, buildings, and at school events.

Senate Bill 1087. This Bill would appropriate \$4 million for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and \$4 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health for additional school nurses.

Senate Bill 1144. This Bill would authorize the issuance of \$2 billion in general obligations bonds for school construction. This is a Bill supported by the North Carolina PTA. Please show your support for this Bill by contacting your legislators.

Senate Bill 1283. This Bill would appropriate over \$2 million for 2007-2008 and \$2 million 2008-2009 to give certain public school students the opportunity to take the SAT Test one time at State expense.

Senate Bill 1294. This Bill would require the State Board of Education to develop a framework for an innovative teacher compensation initiative to support selected pilot local school administrative units' effort to reward effective teachers.

Senate Bill 1322. This Bill addresses the calculation of the dropout rate in North Carolina schools.

NEWLY INTRODUCED BILLS INVOLVING K-12 EDUCATION

If you are interested in seeing a copy of a bill, you may go to the General Assembly's website at <http://www.ncleg.net>. To find the bill you are looking for, just type in the bill number in the area "find bills by number" on the right side of the homepage.

House Bill 879, Modify School Health Education Program. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Fisher, Coleman, Jeffus, and Goodwin.

House Bill 891, Reinstate LEA Sales Tax Refund. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Holloway, Daughtry, and Dollar.

House Bill 905 (=SB 920) Administrative Funds/Teaching Fellows Program. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Tolson, Rapp, McLawhorn, and Haire.

House Bill 906 (=SB 742) No Penalty for Teachers Taking Personal Leave. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Alexander, Rapp, McLawhorn, and T. Harrell.

House Bill 907 (= SB 123) Division TEACCH Program Funds. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Alexander, Crawford, Insko, and England.

House Bill 938 (= SB 260) Schools Provide Information on Cervical Cancer. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Alexander, England, and Farmer-Butterfield.

House Bill 939 (= SB 1328), Salary Schedule for Teachers. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Jeffus, Adams, McLawhorn, and Tolson.

House Bill 955, Funds for the Teacher Cadet Program. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives McLawhorn, Womble, Fisher, and Carney.

House Bill 956, Retired Teachers Work. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Yongue, Tolson, Pate, and Carney.

House Bill 966 (= SB 975). The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Alexander, Earle, and Carney.

House Bill 978 Salary Stipends for Certain Student Teachers. The Bill's primary sponsor is Representative Pierce.

House Bill 1001 (= SB 850), School Bus Safety. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Johnson, Barnhart, Steen, and Folwell.

House Bill 1057 Restore Flexibility to the School Calendar. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Haire and Bell.

House Bill 1256 Revise School Transportation Funding Formula. The Bill's primary sponsors are Representatives Glazier, Dickson, Lucas, and McAllister.

Senate Bill 908 (= HB 682) Funds for the A+ Schools Program. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Queen.

Senate Bill 914 (= HB 693) Teachers Convert Personal Leave to Sick Leave. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Nesbitt.

Senate Bill 919 (= HB 138) Principals May Retain NBPTS Bonus. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Queen.

Senate Bill 920 (= HB 905) Administrative Funds/Teaching Fellows Program. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Queen.

Senate Bill 921 (= HB 1177) Fully Fund Teaching Fellows Scholarships. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Queen.

Senate Bill 922 Funds for the Teacher Cadet Program. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Queen.

Senate Bill 924 School Bus Safety Act Correction. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Brunstetter.

Senate Bill 927 Green School Construction Loan Fund/Program. The Bill's primary sponsor is Senator Garrou.

Debra Horton is president of NCPTA. She can be reached at 919.787.0534 or at office@ncpta.org. Gerry Hancock and Ashley Matlock are attorneys at Everett Gaskins Hancock & Stevens, LLP and are counsel for NCPTA. They can be reached at 919.755.0025 or at gerry@eghs.com or ashley@eghs.com. The Legislative Report is a publication of Everett Gaskins Hancock & Stevens and may not be copied without prior written permission.