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SENATE BILL 386

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Short Title: GPAC/School Admin. Job Protection.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 24, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE TO REPLACE CURRENT SCHOOL TENURE LAWS WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FROM ARBITRARY OR CAPRICIOUS ACTION BY A SUPERVISOR.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-325(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) (1) Election of a Teacher to Career Status. – When a teacher will have been employed by a North Carolina public school system for three consecutive years, the board, near the end of the third year, shall vote upon his employment for the next school year. The board shall give him written notice of that decision by June 1 of his third year of employment. If a majority of the board votes to reemploy the teacher, and if it has notified him of the decision, it may not rescind that action but must proceed under the provisions of this section for the demotion or dismissal of a teacher if it decides to terminate his employment. If a majority of the board votes against reemploying the teacher, he shall not teach beyond the current school term. If the board fails to vote on granting career status but reemploys him for

1 the next year, he automatically becomes a career teacher on the first
2 day of the fourth year of employment.

3 A year, for purposes of computing time as a probationary teacher,
4 shall be not less than 120 workdays performed as a full-time,
5 permanent teacher in a normal school year.

6 (2) Employment of a Career Teacher. – A teacher who has obtained career
7 status in any North Carolina public school system need not serve
8 another probationary period of more than two years, and may, at the
9 option of the board, be employed immediately as a career teacher. In
10 any event, if the teacher is reemployed for a third consecutive school
11 year, he shall automatically become a career teacher. A teacher with
12 career status who resigns and within five years is reemployed by the
13 same local school administrative unit need not serve another
14 probationary period of more than one school year and may, at the
15 option of the board, be reemployed as a career teacher. In any event, if
16 he is reemployed for a second consecutive school year, he shall
17 automatically become a career teacher.

18 (3) Ineligible for Career Status. – No superintendent, associate
19 superintendent, assistant superintendent or other school employee who
20 is not a teacher as defined by G.S. 115C-325(a)(6) is eligible to obtain
21 career status or continue in a career status if he no longer performs the
22 responsibilities of a teacher as defined in G.S. 115C-325(a)(6). No
23 person who is promoted to or employed in a principal, director or
24 supervisor position after July 1, 1995, is eligible to obtain career status
25 as an administrator. If the person acquired career status as a teacher in
26 a local school administrative unit before being promoted to or
27 employed in a principal, director or supervisor position, the person
28 shall retain career status as a teacher and the person has a right to
29 reassignment to a teaching position in the event the person is not
30 continued in employment as a principal, supervisor or director.

31 (4) Leave of Absence. – A career teacher who has been granted a leave of
32 absence by a board shall maintain his career status if he returns to his
33 teaching position at the end of the authorized leave."

34 Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-325(d) reads as rewritten:

35 "(d) Career Teachers.

36 (1) A career teacher shall not be subjected to the requirement of annual
37 appointment nor shall he be dismissed, demoted, or employed on a
38 part-time basis without his consent except as provided in subsection
39 (e).

40 (2) a. The provisions of this subdivision do not apply to a person who is
41 ineligible for career status as provided by G.S. 115C-325(c)(3).

42 b. Whether or not he has previously attained career status as a
43 teacher, a person who has performed the duties of a principal in
44 the school system for three consecutive years or has performed

1 the duties of a supervisor in the school system for three
2 consecutive years shall not be transferred from that position to a
3 lower paying administrative position or to a lower paying
4 nonadministrative position without his consent except for the
5 reasons given in G.S. 115C-325(e)(1) and in accordance with
6 the provisions for the dismissal of a career teacher set out in this
7 section. Transfer of a principal or a supervisor is not a transfer
8 to a lower paying position if the principal's or supervisor's
9 salary is maintained at the previous salary amount.

10 When a teacher has performed the duties of supervisor or principal
11 for three consecutive years, the board, near the end of the third year,
12 shall vote upon his employment for the next school year. The board
13 shall give him written notice of that decision by June 1 of his third
14 year of employment as a supervisor or principal. If a majority of the
15 board votes to reemploy the teacher as a principal or supervisor, and it
16 has notified him of that decision, it may not rescind that action but
17 must proceed under the provisions of this section. If a majority of the
18 board votes not to reemploy the teacher as a principal or supervisor, he
19 shall retain career status as a teacher if that status was attained prior to
20 assuming the duties of supervisor or principal. A supervisor or
21 principal who has not held that position for three years and whose
22 contract will not be renewed for the next school year shall be notified
23 by June 1 and shall retain career status as a teacher if that status was
24 attained prior to assuming the duties of supervisor or principal.

25 A year, for purposes of computing time as a probationary principal
26 or supervisor, shall not be less than 145 workdays performed as a full-
27 time, permanent principal or supervisor in a contract year.

28 A principal or supervisor who has obtained career status in that
29 position in any North Carolina public school system may be required
30 by the board of education in another school system to serve an
31 additional three-year probationary period in that position before being
32 eligible for career status. However, he may, at the option of the board
33 of education, be granted career status immediately or after serving a
34 probationary period of one or two additional years. A principal or
35 supervisor with career status who resigns and within five years is
36 reemployed by the same school system need not serve another
37 probationary period in that position of more than two years and may, at
38 the option of the board, be reemployed immediately as a career
39 principal or supervisor or be given career status after only one year. In
40 any event, if he is reemployed for a third consecutive year, he shall
41 automatically become a career principal or supervisor."

42 Sec. 3. G.S. 115C-325(n) reads as rewritten:

43 "(n) Appeal. – Any teacher who has been dismissed or demoted pursuant to G.S.
44 115C-325(e)(2), or pursuant to subsections (h), (k) or (l) of this section, or who has been

1 suspended without pay pursuant to G.S. 115C-325(a)(4), or any school administrator
2 whose contract is not renewed in accordance with G.S. 115C-287.1, shall have the right
3 to appeal from the decision of the board to the superior court for the superior court
4 district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1 in which the teacher or school
5 administrator is employed. This appeal shall be filed within a period of 30 days after
6 notification of the decision of the board. The cost of preparing the transcript shall be
7 borne by the board. A teacher who has been demoted or ~~dismissed~~-dismissed, or a
8 principal whose contract is not renewed, and who has not requested a hearing before the
9 board of education pursuant to this section shall not be entitled to judicial review of the
10 board's action."

11 Sec. 4. G.S. 115C-276 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 "(q) To Assign School Principals. – Subject to local board policy, the
13 superintendent shall have the authority to assign principals to school buildings. When
14 making an assignment, the superintendent shall consider (i) whether a principal has
15 demonstrated the leadership ability to increase student achievement at a school where
16 conditions indicated a significant risk of low student performance; and (ii) how to
17 maintain stability at a school where, during the time the principal has been at a school,
18 there has been significant improvement on end-of-course or end-of-grade tests and other
19 accountability indicators developed by the State Board in accordance with G.S. 115C-
20 238.1."

21 Sec. 5. G.S. 115C-287 is repealed.

22 Sec. 6. Article 19 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
23 adding a new section to read:

24 "**§ 115C-287.1. Method of employment of principals, supervisors and directors.**

25 (a) Tenure of a school administrator who is not ineligible for career status as
26 provided by G.S. 115C-325(c)(3) shall be determined in accordance with the provisions
27 of G.S. 115C-325. For purposes of this section, school administrator means a principal,
28 supervisor or director.

29 (b) Local boards of education shall employ school administrators who are
30 ineligible for career status as provided by G.S. 115C-325(c)(3), upon the
31 recommendation of the superintendent. The first contract between the school
32 administrator and the local board of education shall be for two to four years; subsequent
33 contracts shall be for terms of four years. Contracts shall be renewed only at the end of
34 the contract period. Rolling annual contract renewals are not allowed.

35 (c) The term of employment shall be stated in a written contract that shall be
36 entered into between the board of education and the school administrator. The school
37 administrator shall not be dismissed or demoted during the term of the contract except
38 for the grounds and by the procedure by which a career teacher may be dismissed or
39 demoted as set forth in G.S. 115C-325.

40 (d) If the superintendent elects not to recommend the reemployment of a school
41 administrator at the end of the contract's term, the superintendent shall notify the school
42 administrator at least 30 days prior to the end of the contract's term that the school
43 administrator will not be offered reemployment beyond the contract's term. No action
44 by the board of education shall be necessary: Provided, however, that the cause for

1 nonrenewal may not be for arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory, personal, or political
2 reasons. Any school administrator who is nonrenewed pursuant to this section shall
3 have the right to an appeal in accordance with G.S. 115C-305 and G.S. 115C-325(n).

4 When possible, at least 90 days prior to the end of the contract term, if a
5 superintendent intends to notify a school administrator that the school administrator will
6 not be offered reemployment beyond the contract term, the superintendent shall give the
7 school administrator notice that termination is likely, and the school administrator shall
8 have the right to request and to participate in a conference with the superintendent at
9 least 60 days prior to the end of the contract term to discuss the reasons for the possible
10 termination. After the conference the superintendent may either recommend re-
11 employment of the administrator or notify the school administrator that reemployment
12 will not be offered.

13 (e) If the superintendent elects to recommend the reemployment of a school
14 administrator for a successive contract or to recommend a new and extended term of a
15 school administrator's contract, the superintendent may do so at any time after a
16 conference pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or more than 90 days prior to the
17 end of the current contract's term. The board of education may approve or disapprove
18 the superintendent's recommendation for any cause that is not arbitrary, capricious,
19 discriminatory, personal or political. If the board decides not to offer the school
20 administrator employment beyond the end of the contract's term, the school
21 administrator shall be notified of that fact at least 30 days prior to the end of the
22 contract's term.

23 (f) If the superintendent or the board of education fails to notify a school
24 administrator at least 30 days prior to the end of the contract's term that the school
25 administrator will not be offered employment beyond the end of the contract term, the
26 school administrator shall be entitled to 30 days of additional employment or severance
27 pay beyond the date the school administrator receives notice that the contract will not be
28 renewed.

29 (g) If the school administrator acquired career status prior to appointment as a
30 school administrator, a school administrator whose contract as a school administrator is
31 not renewed or extended by the superintendent or the board of education shall be
32 entitled to reassignment and employment in the position of employment in which the
33 school administrator previously acquired career status."

34 Sec. 7. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.