

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

H

2

HOUSE BILL 563  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/27/05

Short Title: Comm. Coll. May Train Lateral Entry Teachers.

(Public)

---

Sponsors:

---

Referred to:

---

March 10, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT PERMITTING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE  
COURSEWORK TO PERSONS ENTERING THE TEACHING PROFESSION BY  
LATERAL ENTRY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-296(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to encourage lateral entry into the profession of teaching by skilled individuals from the private sector. To this end, before the 1985-86 school year begins, the State Board of Education shall develop criteria and procedures to accomplish the employment of such individuals as classroom teachers. ~~Regardless of credentials or competence, no one shall begin teaching above the middle level of differentiation.~~ Skilled individuals who choose to enter the profession of teaching laterally may be granted a provisional teaching certificate for no more than five years and shall be required to obtain certification before contracting for a sixth year of service with any local administrative unit in this State.

(c1) The State Board of Community Colleges shall provide a program of study for lateral entry teachers to complete all of the coursework necessary to earn a teaching certificate. To this end, the State Board of Education, through the regional alternative licensing centers established by the Department of Public Instruction and in consultation with the State Board of Community Colleges, shall establish a competency-based, noncredit program of study for lateral entry teachers to be implemented within the Community College System no later than May 1, 2006. A community college may offer this lateral entry program of study only if a superintendent of a local school administrative unit within the community college's service area requests the program.

The State Board of Community Colleges and the regional alternative licensing centers shall jointly identify the community college courses that are necessary and appropriate for inclusion in the community college program of study for lateral entry teachers. The courses offered by a community college as a part of this program of study

1 shall carry no academic credit toward a degree of any kind and shall be used only for  
2 the purpose of earning a teaching certificate.

3 In order to participate in the community college program of study for lateral entry  
4 teachers, an individual must:

5 (1) Hold at least a bachelors degree from a regionally accredited  
6 institution of higher education;

7 (2) Have completed the bachelors degree at least five years before  
8 undertaking the program of study under this subsection; and

9 (3) Hold a lateral entry teaching certificate and be employed as a teacher  
10 in a local school administrative unit.

11 An individual who successfully completes this program of study and meets all other  
12 requirements of certification set by the State Board of Education shall be recommended  
13 for a North Carolina teaching certificate.

14 (c2) It is further the policy of the State of North Carolina to ensure that local  
15 boards of education can provide the strongest possible leadership for schools based  
16 upon the identified and changing needs of individual schools. To this end, before the  
17 1994-95 school year begins, the State Board of Education shall carefully consider a  
18 lateral entry program for school administrators to ensure that local boards of education  
19 will have sufficient flexibility to attract able candidates."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115D-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(o) The North Carolina Community College System may offer courses, in  
22 accordance with the lateral entry program of study established under  
23 G.S. 115C-296(c1), to individuals who choose to enter the teaching profession by lateral  
24 entry."

25 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education and the State Board of  
26 Community Colleges shall submit a report annually to the Joint Legislative Education  
27 Oversight Committee on the lateral entry program.

28 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires July 1,  
29 2011.