

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS15267-LU-156A (05/16)

Short Title: CoOp. Regional Fund/Children W/Disabilities. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Atwater.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT REGIONAL
2 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND TO SUPPORT MULTIDISCIPLINARY
3 ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.
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5 Whereas, there exists a group of children for whom the cost of services
6 exceeds the capacity for any one school district; and

7 Whereas, the advanced technology has been developed and assistive
8 technologists, special therapists, and literacy specialists possess the expertise to provide
9 for these children and their schools educational and therapeutic support to allow the
10 students to achieve their academic potential; and

11 Whereas, cooperatively sharing resources between and among school districts
12 through a regional resource strengthens the capacity of public schools to include these
13 high intensity children in the mainstream; and

14 Whereas, coordinated and effective use of noneducational sources, such as
15 Medicaid and Children's Special Health Services, is essential to the benefit of children
16 and schools; and

17 Whereas, public school therapists, teachers, and administrative personnel
18 require support and guidance in the employment of communication and other assistive
19 technology to integrate the child into the North Carolina Standard Course of Study; and

20 Whereas, the collaboration of public schools with skilled University of North
21 Carolina Center for Literacy and Disability Studies professionals will support
22 continuing education, research, and development; and

23 Whereas, families will benefit from prescriptive assessment and resource
24 identification from other income sources; and

25 Whereas, inclusion and independence education is less costly than residential
26 care or special class participation; Now, therefore,

27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2 Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children, the sum of one
3 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be
4 used to establish a pilot regional special education fund to support multidisciplinary
5 assessment services for children with severe communication and mobility disabilities.

6 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children, the sum of one
8 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall
9 be used to support the New Voices Assessment Program in collaboration with the
10 University of North Carolina Center for Literacy and Disability Studies for the
11 implementation of a multidisciplinary assessment program for children with severe
12 communication and mobility disabilities.

13 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.