

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**Simple
Resolution
Adopted**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 275
Adopted 3/18/03**

Sponsors: Representatives Glazier, Dickson, Lucas, Warner (Primary Sponsors); G. Allen, Insko, Jeffus, McLawhorn, and Warren.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 6, 2003

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 FULLY FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

3 Whereas, full federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
4 Act (IDEA) would have an immediate impact on students with disabilities across the
5 entire State of North Carolina; and

6 Whereas, prior to enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children
7 Act of 1975, only one in five children with disabilities was educated in public schools in
8 the United States; and

9 Whereas, despite significant strides in increasing and enhancing public
10 education of children with disabilities, many of these children still do not receive the
11 services and assistance they need to succeed in public schools; and

12 Whereas, North Carolina has had in place for a number of years an
13 assessment and accountability system that includes students with disabilities, including
14 students requiring an alternate assessment system; and

15 Whereas, considering the new federal No Child Left Behind requirements for
16 raising the percentage of students with disabilities proficient in state standards to 100%
17 by the end of the 2013-2014 school year and that a primary evaluation of school success
18 will be determined by increasing the proficiency rate, local school districts have been
19 working to provide North Carolina's 190,823 students with disabilities increased access
20 to and progress in the general curriculum; and

21 Whereas, full funding will translate into providing more teachers and
22 paraprofessionals emphasizing instruction in curriculum to assist in implementing the
23 Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for all North Carolina students with disabilities,
24 which would support student achievement and student proficiency; and

25 Whereas, teacher preparation programs would benefit from full funding of
26 IDEA by attracting prospective persons interested in a career of teaching special
27 education; and

1 Whereas, teacher professional development and technical assistance to
2 increase student achievement and proficiency would benefit from full funding of IDEA;
3 and

4 Whereas, the related services that the additional IDEA part B money resulting
5 from full funding could buy would positively impact student achievement and academic
6 success; and

7 Whereas, full funding would also assist in the provision of additional
8 technology and assistive technology dedicated to increasing access to and progress in
9 the general curriculum for students with disabilities; and

10 Whereas, the federal government currently funds only 18% of its initial
11 promise to pay 40% of per pupil expenditures under IDEA for serving students with
12 disabilities; and

13 Whereas, this lack of funding has forced states and local districts to make up
14 the difference at the cost of other critical education programs; and

15 Whereas, passage of the full funding provision is especially critical now that
16 most states are experiencing declining revenues and budget reductions due to the slow
17 economy; and

18 Whereas, a recent congressional report showed that many states have already
19 been forced to cut education funding over 11 billion dollars, with more cuts expected;
20 Now, therefore,

21 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

22 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives urges Congress to fully fund the
23 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) during Congress' consideration of
24 IDEA reauthorization. It is absolutely critical that Congress fulfill its 27-year-old
25 promise to help states and local school districts with the rising costs of special education
26 and approve mandatory IDEA full funding.

27 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this
28 resolution to each member of the North Carolina congressional delegation and to the
29 President of the United States.

30 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.