



# SENATE BILL 123: Geo Iso Sch/Transp Eff Buff/Currituck Cty Sch.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	July 22, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Sanderson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brian Gwyn
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 123 would do the following:*

- *Revise the geographically isolated schools formula regarding the allocation of teachers for Currituck County Schools.*
- *Allow an increased transportation efficiency budget rating for Currituck County Schools.*
- *Require the State Board of Education to develop draft policies and procedures for auditing public school attendance and membership data.*

**CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1:** G.S. 115C-301(g1) requires the State Board of Education to allot additional classroom teachers to schools containing grades kindergarten through 12 when consolidation is not feasible due to the geographic isolation of the school. To be geographically isolated, a school must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The school is located in a local school administrative unit in which the average daily membership is less than 1.5 per square mile.
- The school is located in a local school administrative unit for a county containing more than 150,000 acres of national forest owned by the federal government and managed by the United States Forest Service pursuant to G.S. 104-5.

Section 1 would add a criterion for geographic isolation to G.S. 115C-301(g1). A school would be considered geographically isolated if it meets all of the following requirements:

- The school contains grades kindergarten through 5.
- The school is located in a local school administrative unit for a county containing all or a portion of at least one national wildlife refuge owned by the federal government and managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to G.S. 104-10.
- The school is only accessible to the majority of the local school administrative unit, while remaining in the local school administrative unit, by ferry.

Section 1 would be effective July 1, 2019, and apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. This section would apply only to Currituck County Schools.

**Section 2:** Local school administrative units (LEAs) receive an annual transportation budget rating calculated based on an efficiency rating developed from a number of factors, including expenditures, students transported, and buses operated with adjustments for site characteristics, plus a 10% buffer. An

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LEA with an efficiency rating of 80% would therefore have a budget rating of 90%, meaning that State funds would cover 90% of the LEA's transportation costs. This budget rating is used to calculate the transportation allotment for that LEA.

Section 2 of SB 123 would provide that, for Currituck County Schools, the Department of Public Instruction should provide a 15% buffer, rather than 10%, in calculating the transportation budget rating for that LEA.

Section 2 would be effective July 1, 2019, and apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. This section would apply only to Currituck County Schools.

**Section 3:** Section 3 would require the State Board of Education to develop draft policies and procedures for auditing average daily membership data, compliance with minimum instruction requirements, and compliance with compulsory attendance enforcement requirements for all public schools, including virtual charter schools. The State Board would be required to report on the draft policies and procedures, as well as any legislative recommendations, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 15, 2020.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, SB 123 would become effective when it becomes law, and apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

*\*Kara McCraw and Samantha Yarborough, staff attorneys with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*