

House Approves Legislation Creating Education Finance Reform Task Force

By Adam Pridemore for NCASA

This week, the House approved legislation establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform. The bill, [House Bill 6](#), stems from recommendations made by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee based on a report late last year from the study of the K-12 allotment funding method North Carolina uses to fund public education. That report, which can be read in full [here](#), states that issues specific to certain allotments, as well as the allotment system in general, adversely affect the distribution of K-12 resources. The report ultimately recommended either moving to a weighted student formula to fund the K-12 public education system, or reforming the current allotment system. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Last week in committee, the bill sponsor, Rep. Craig Horn (R-Union), ran an amendment allowing the Task Force to broaden its scope of study to allow the Task Force to study other funding methods, including reforming the current allotment system and reforming specific allotments, for elementary and secondary public schools, including public charter schools. A second amendment allowing for the appointment of four superintendents and two LEA financial officer as ex officio, non-voting members caused mass debate. At that time Rep. Horn asked the bill be held over to this week to determine the best course of action.

This week in committee, no amendment was run to add ex officio, non-voting members, with Rep. Horn commenting the Task Force can appoint an advisory council at a later time as it deems necessary. Amendments on the House floor to direct the Task Force membership be more inclusive of the political minority party, and reflect the geographic, urban/rural, cultural, and ethnic diversity of the State, failed on the House floor.