COMMITTEE REPORT

March 2, 2010

**H. 3254**

Introduced by Reps. Edge, Sellers, Barfield, Kelly, G.M. Smith and Branham

S. Printed 3/2/10--S.

Read the first time April 28, 2009.

**THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3254) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 59‑26‑87 so as to provide that certain speech‑language pathologists who have received, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

JOHN E. COURSON for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The State Department of Education (SDE) estimates the total recurring cost to be $2,835,100. SDE estimates that there are 784 Speech-language pathologists currently eligible for the incentive. This cost consists of the $3,000 annual incentive including related fringe benefits. The bill requires that incentives must be paid from funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose.

*Approved By:*

Harry Bell

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑26‑87 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED NATIONAL CERTIFICATION FROM THE AMERICAN SPEECH‑LANGUAGE‑HEARING ASSOCIATION AND WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN A SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL RECEIVE A YEARLY INCENTIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE CERTIFICATION, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THESE INCENTIVES MUST BE PAID FROM FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THIS PURPOSE IF AVAILABLE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑26‑87. (A) For purposes of this section, ‘certified speech‑language pathologist’ means a speech‑language pathologist who has:

(1) a master’s degree that includes medical training;

(2) completed a one‑year clinical fellowship;

(3) passed the Praxis Exam; and

(4) received and maintained a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech‑Language Pathology from the American Speech‑Language‑Hearing Association.

(B) Beginning with the 2009‑2010 school year, the Department of Education shall pay a yearly bonus of three thousand dollars to a certified speech‑language pathologist who:

(1) holds a South Carolina teaching certification as a speech‑language therapist;

(2) is continuously employed full time in a South Carolina school district as a speech‑language pathologist at the time of receiving the bonus;

(3) is not considered a purchased service contractor; and

(4) is not receiving a salary supplement as a result of holding a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

(C) Bonuses paid to a certified speech‑language pathologist pursuant to this section must be paid from funds appropriated by the General Assembly specifically for this purpose. However, the yearly bonuses provided by this section must not be paid unless necessary funding in an amount certified annually by the Office of State Budget of the Budget and Control Board has been appropriated by the General Assembly specifically for this purpose.

(D) The cost and expenses related to the acquisition and maintenance of the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech‑Language Pathology for the American Speech‑Language‑Hearing Association are the responsibility of the certified speech‑language pathologist.

(E) Upon implementation of programs and efforts coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Education to attract individuals to positions that are difficult to staff or to critical subject areas by providing bonuses, the line‑item appropriation for the Speech Language Pathologist bonus program must be combined with funds appropriated by the General Assembly for other teacher bonuses and must be allocated for that purpose based on the guidelines established by the South Carolina Department of Education.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies beginning with the 2009‑2010 school year.

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