

REPORT OF THE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

(Whitmire, Hayes, G.R. Smith, & Dillard- Staff Contact: Kenzie Riddle)

HOUSE BILL 3609

H. 3609 -- Reps. Lucas, G.M. Smith, Allison and Whitmire: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO RESTORE TEACHER STEP INCREASES THAT WERE SUSPENDED BY ACT 135 OF 2020 DUE TO FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTIES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, BY APPROPRIATING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS TO PROVIDE FOR TEACHER STEP INCREASES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

Received by Ways and Means:

Summary of Bill:

The bill is to restore the teachers step increase that was suspended by Act 135 of 2020. The bill allows an appropriation from the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund of fifty million dollars to be provided for teacher step increases for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Department of Education will distribute the funds to each school district in an amount, certified by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

The Department of Education will provide RFA the number of full-time teachers in school years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021. For school years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, the department shall provide the number of positions as of the end of the school year. For school year 2020-2021, the department shall provide the number of positions as of February.

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs will determine the actual increase cost of the step increase in the state minimum salary schedule. RFA will then notify the Executive Budget Office and the Department of Education of its determination for each school district. Then, the Executive Budget Office will distribute funds to the Department of Education to be distributed to each school district.

Each school district will receive one-time lump sum payment of the entire step increase due to the employee, by June 15, 2021.

"THE BELOW CONSTITUTED SUMMARY IS PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IS NOT THE EXPRESSION OF THE LEGISLATION'S SPONSOR(S) OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS STRICTLY FOR THE INTERNAL USE AND BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED BY A COURT OF LAW AS AN EXPRESSION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT".

Estimated Revenue Impact:

The bill will take from the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund, and notwithstanding Act 135 of 2020, Part II, Section (4)(D), there will be an appropriation of \$50,000,000 to the Executive Budget Office.

Subcommittee Recommendation:

Favorable with Amendment

Other Notes/Comments:

The amendment changes the date the department will provide the number of positions to RFA from February 1st to March 1st.

HOUSE
AMENDMENT

THIS AMENDMENT
ADOPTED

GOOD/DOWNEY
JANUARY 13, 2021

CLERK OF THE HOUSE

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SPECIAL SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT No. TO H. 3609 (USERS\KENZIERIDDLE\APPDATA\LOCAL\MICROSOFT\WINDOWS\INETCACHE\CONTENT.OUTLOOK\Y88J45FH\3609C001.NBD.DG21):

REFERENCE IS TO THE RESOLUTION AS INTRODUCED.

AMEND THE JOINT RESOLUTION, AS AND IF AMENDED, SECTION 1, BY STRIKING SUBSECTION (B)(1) AND (B)(2) AND INSERTING:

/ (B)(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS TO EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN AN AMOUNT, DETERMINED BY THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE, EQUAL TO THE INCREASED COST OF SALARIES TO THE

SCHOOL DISTRICT DUE TO THE STEP INCREASE IN THE STATE MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STATE-FUNDED POSITIONS THAT WERE ELIGIBLE FOR THE STEP INCREASE PURSUANT TO SECTION 59-20-50(4)(B) IN SCHOOL YEARS 2018-2019, 2019-2020, AND 2020-2021 THAT EACH DISTRICT HAS IN EACH CELL OF THE STATE MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE. FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2018-2019 AND 2019-2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS AS OF THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS AS OF MARCH 1, 2021. /

**RENUMBER SECTIONS TO CONFORM.
AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM.**

South Carolina General Assembly
124th Session, 2021-2022

H. 3609

STATUS INFORMATION

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Lucas, G.M. Smith, Allison and Whitmire

Document Path: I:\council\bill\abd\11139dg21.docx

Introduced in the House on January 12, 2021

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: Not yet available

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Action Description with journal page number</u>
1/12/2021	House	Introduced and read first time
1/12/2021	House	Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

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VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

1/12/2021

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 TO RESTORE TEACHER STEP INCREASES THAT WERE
12 SUSPENDED BY ACT 135 OF 2020 DUE TO FINANCIAL
13 UNCERTAINTIES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, BY
14 APPROPRIATING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS TO PROVIDE
15 FOR TEACHER STEP INCREASES FOR THE 2020-2021
16 SCHOOL YEAR.

17
18 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South
19 Carolina:

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21 SECTION 1.(A) From the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve
22 Fund, and notwithstanding Act 135 of 2020, Part II, Section (4)(D),
23 there is appropriated \$50,000,000 to the Executive Budget Office to
24 provide teacher step increases for the 2020-2021 School Year in
25 accordance with Act 91 of 2019, Part 1.B. Proviso 1.A.36. The
26 funds must be held in a separate account and disbursed to school
27 districts in accordance with subsection (B). Any funds remaining in
28 the account after June 30, 2021, must be remitted to the Contingency
29 Reserve Fund.

30 (B)(1) The Executive Budget Office shall distribute the funds to
31 each school district in an amount, determined by the Revenue and
32 Fiscal Affairs Office, equal to the increased cost of salaries to the
33 school district due to the step increase in the state minimum salary
34 schedule.

35 (2) The Department of Education shall provide the Revenue
36 and Fiscal Affairs Office the number of full-time equivalent
37 state-funded positions that were eligible for the step increase
38 pursuant to Section 59-20-50(4)(b) in school years 2018-2019,
39 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 that each district has in each cell of the
40 state minimum teacher salary schedule. For school years 2018-2019
41 and 2019-2020, the department shall provide the number of
42 positions as of the end of the school year. For School Year

1 2020-2021, the department shall provide the number of positions as
2 of February 1, 2021.

3 (3) The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office shall determine the
4 actual increased cost of the step increase in the state minimum salary
5 schedule by determining the increase in the amount of total salaries
6 of such positions in School Year 2020-2021 when compared to
7 School Year 2019-2020 due to the change in the average number of
8 years of service for such positions. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
9 Office shall notify the Executive Budget Office and the Department
10 of Education of its determination for each school district. Then, the
11 Executive Budget Office shall distribute the cumulative amount to
12 the Department of Education to be distributed to each school district
13 that experienced an increase in the manner determined by the
14 Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

15 (C) For each position that is eligible for the step increase for the
16 2020-2021 School Year, each school district shall provide a
17 one-time lump sum payment of the entire step increase due to the
18 employee, including any amounts in arrears, by June 15, 2021.

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20 SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by
21 the Governor.

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