

Session 120 - (2013-2014)

H 4956 General Bill, By Rivers, Bowen, Herbkersman, Norman, Putnam, G.R. Smith and Stringer

Summary: Statewide student learning and performance assessment program

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-18-310, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE STUDENT LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MUST DEMONSTRATE PERFORMANCE AT HIS GRADE LEVEL IN ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS BEFORE PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE, AND THAT A STUDENT MAY SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT BY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK AND TESTING IN SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS PARENT OR GUARDIAN, PAYABLE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AS ESTABLISHED BY THE DISTRICT; TO EXEMPT ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE STUDENTS FROM OTHER EXIT EXAMINATIONS, TO REQUIRE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE WORKKEYS EXAM AND THE ACT EXAM, TO REQUIRE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE A MINIMUM SCORE ONLY ON THE WORKKEYS EXAM AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADVANCE TO TWELFTH GRADE, TO REQUIRE TWELFTH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ACT EXAM AND THE WORKKEYS EXAM, AND TO REQUIRE TWELFTH GRADE STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE A MINIMUM SCORE ONLY ON THE WORKKEYS EXAM AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO GRADUATE; TO AMEND SECTION 59-31-210, RELATING TO A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PROVIDE TEXTBOOKS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY MEANS OF A RENTAL SYSTEM, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY OPT OUT OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK RENTAL SYSTEM BUT INSTEAD MUST PURCHASE THE DIGITAL EQUIVALENT OF A TEXTBOOK AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY FROM VENDOR CONTRACTS APPROVED BY THE STATE SUBJECT TO FUNDING, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING BEGINNING WITH THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND SECTION 59-26-30, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION, SO AS TO ALLOW SPECIAL PART-TIME CERTIFICATES ALLOWING PROFESSIONALS OR EXPERTS TO TEACH SUBJECTS RELATED TO THEIR PROFESSION OR EXPERTISE; TO AMEND SECTION 59-18-900, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RATINGS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT REAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND TEST SCORES BUT NOT GRADUATION RATES BE USED FOR THESE RATINGS AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMINOLOGY; TO AMEND SECTION 59-39-100, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO UNITS REQUIRED FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, SO AS TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE METHOD FOR OBTAINING A DIPLOMA FOR STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTERS; AND TO CREATE TWO STUDY COMMITTEES TO REVIEW THE K-12 SCIENCE CONTENT EDUCATION STANDARDS AND THE K-12 LANGUAGE ARTS CONTENT EDUCATION STANDARDS, RESPECTIVELY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EACH.

03/20/14 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 46)

03/20/14 House Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 46)