COMMITTEE REPORT

February 26, 2009

**S. 16**

Introduced by Senators Lourie and Elliott

S. Printed 2/26/09--S. [SEC 2/27/09 1:09 PM]

Read the first time January 13, 2009.

**THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 16) to amend Section 59‑39‑100 of the 1976 Code, relating to the issuance of uniform diplomas, to require the issuance of high school diplomas for qualifying veterans who, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

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

Amend the bill as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 in its entirety and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Section 59‑39‑100 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( ) Notwithstanding all other eligibility requirements for high school diplomas, upon request, an honorary high school diploma shall be awarded to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces during a War Period as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, who was enrolled in, but did not graduate from, a high school located in South Carolina prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces, and was unable to resume his secondary education upon returning to civilian life. The request must be made by the veteran or, in the case of a posthumous request for a deceased veteran, a member of the veteran’s immediate family. The diplomas must be issued in the name of the high school last attended by the veteran prior to his induction into the United States Armed Forces regardless of the current operational status of the high school. The South Carolina Board of Education, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs, shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the procedures for awarding these diplomas.” /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

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 this bill would have a recurring fiscal impact in the amount of $38,000 depending of the number requests for a high school diploma. This cost consists of one administrative position at a salary of $38,000 annually, including fringe benefits to manage the requests for diplomas. SDE indicates diplomas are issued by the state and not the local boards of education.

*Approved By:*

Harry Bell

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑39‑100 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF UNIFORM DIPLOMAS, TO REQUIRE THE ISSUANCE OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS FOR QUALIFYING VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING A WAR PERIOD AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑39‑100 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( ) Notwithstanding all other eligibility requirements for high school diplomas, upon request, a local board of education shall award a high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces during a War Period as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, who was enrolled in, but did not graduate from, a high school located in South Carolina prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces. The request must be made by the veteran or, in the case of a posthumous request for a deceased veteran, a member of the veteran’s immediate family. The diplomas must be issued in the name of the high school last attended by the veteran prior to his induction into the United States Armed Forces regardless of the current operational status of the high school. The South Carolina Department of Education, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs, shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the procedures for awarding these diplomas.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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