COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED

February 21, 2018

**S. 888**

Introduced by Senators Hembree, Gregory, Bennett, Grooms, Climer, Shealy, Peeler, Goldfinch, Massey, Talley, Verdin, Turner, Timmons, Alexander, Cash, Gambrell, Campbell, Senn, Young, Cromer, Davis, Rice, Martin, Rankin and Corbin

S. Printed 2/21/18--S.

Read the first time January 11, 2018.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑25‑47 SO AS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBERS ANNUALLY MAY RECEIVE PAYMENTS FOR UNUSED ANNUAL LEAVE AND SICK LEAVE IN EXCESS OF NINETY DAYS AT AN ESTABLISHED RATE OF SUBSTITUTE PAY FOR THEIR JOB CLASSIFICATION, TO PROVIDE THESE PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS, AND TO PROVIDE THESE PROVISIONS DO NOT AMEND OR REPEAL EXISTING PROGRAMS THAT MAKE SIMILAR PAYMENTS BUT AT LOWER RATES, OR RELATED RIGHTS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑25‑47. (A) A local school district board of trustees or, in the case of a charter school, the governing body of a charter school, is authorized to adopt a policy consistent with the school district or, in the case of a charter school, the school budget, providing that all certified and noncertified public school teachers identified in the Professional Certified Staff listing, certified special school classroom teachers, certified media specialists, certified guidance counselors, and career specialists who are employed by a school district or a charter school who earn, but do not use sick and annual leave in excess of ninety days, may be eligible to receive payment at the end of each fiscal year for these earned days in excess of ninety days for each excess day at a district’s or charter school’s established rate of substitute pay for their individual job classification, or another amount, subject to approval by the local school board, or, in the case of a charter school, the governing body of the charter school. This provision applies only to sick leave and annual leave in excess of ninety days that is accrued after July 1, 2018.

(B) Notwithstanding any provision contained in this section, this section does not and may not be construed to amend or to repeal:

(1) the rights of a school district, charter school, or legislative delegation to set or restrict any existing teacher incentive payment programs; or

(2) any existing teacher incentive payment programs provided by current law or any existing limitation on the fiscal autonomy of a school district or charter school that are more restrictive than any incentives provided in subsection (A).”

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

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