**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 18, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, BY ADDING SECTION 59-18-130 AND SECTION 59-18-140, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION SHALL LOWER CHILD-TO-TEACHER RATIOS TO ASSIST CHRONICALLY UNSATISFACTORY SCHOOLS, TO ADDRESS FUNDING, AND TO PROVIDE THAT KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE CLASSES IN LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS WITH MORE THAN FIFTEEN STUDENTS MUST HAVE A TEACHER AND A TEACHER’S ASSISTANT; TO AMEND ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 25, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TEACHERS, BY ADDING SECTION 59-25-60, TO PROVIDE THAT EACH CLASSROOM TEACHER AND FULL‑TIME LIBRARIAN IS ENTITLED TO AT LEAST A THIRTY‑MINUTE DAILY PLANNING PERIOD FREE FROM THE INSTRUCTION AND SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 18 of Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑18‑130. (A) The Superintendent of Education shall utilize lower child-to-teacher ratios to assist chronically below average and unsatisfactory schools.

(B) School districts must use existing funding to meet and maintain lower ratios. No student-teacher classroom ratio created by statute, resolution, or regulation may be waived or otherwise changed temporarily or permanently by any legislative measure absent a two-thirds vote of approval by the membership of the House of Representatives and a two-thirds vote of approval by the membership of the Senate.

Section 59‑18‑140. Beginning with the 2019‑2020 School Year, kindergarten through third grade classes with more than fifteen students in low performing schools must have a teacher and a teacher’s assistant.”

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑25‑60. Each classroom teacher and full‑time librarian must have at least a thirty‑minute daily planning period free from the instruction and supervision of students. Each school district may set flexible or rotating schedules for each classroom teacher or full‑time librarian in the district for the implementation of this section. Implementation of this section may not result in a lengthened school day.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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