

May 21, 2008

H 2418. REESTABLISH COM. ON DROPOUT PREVENTION/ FUNDS. Filed 5/21/08. *TO REESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON DROPOUT PREVENTION TO AWARD ADDITIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION GRANTS, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE GRANTS, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A CONSULTANT TO STAFF THE COMMITTEE.*

Directs that the Committee on Dropout Prevention (Committee), as established in SL 2007-323, Section 7.32(c), be reestablished. (SL 2007-323, Section 7.32(e) specified that the Committee terminate after its December 1, 2007 report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation).

Appropriates \$15 million for 2008-09 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction, Committee on Dropout Prevention. Directs that \$5.5 million be used to award 40 additional dropout prevention grants, no later than November 1, 2008. Directs that the remaining funds be used to (1) provide additional funding to recipients awarded grants under SL 2007-323, or (2) award grants to applicants that did not previously receive funding under SL 2007-323.

Directs that funds appropriated for the dropout prevention grants for 2007-08 do not revert on December 31, 2008 but remain available for expenditure until August 31, 2009. Also directs that dropout grant prevention funds appropriated for 2008-09 are not to revert, but are to remain available for expenditure until August 31, 2010.

Specifies that the Committee is to select the grant recipients from applications received during the submission process outlined in Section 7.32(d) of SL 2007-323 (regarding the Committee's criteria for the selection of grant recipients). Directs the Committee to determine a cut-off score for applicants and award grants to applicants that (1) meet the cut off score, and (2) did not previously receive funding under SL 2007-323. Adds to the criteria established in SL 2007-323, Section 7.32(d), to require that a priority for grants be given to programs that would serve students in schools with (1) a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 65%, and (2) in counties that did not receive funding under SL 2007-323. Directs that grants be distributed geographically throughout the eight educational districts as defined in GS 115C-65. Prohibits that more than three grants be awarded in any one county in a single fiscal year.

Directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to contract with an independent consultant to serve as staff to the Committee and to assist the Committee in evaluating the impact of the grants awarded. Appropriates \$100,000 for 2008-09 from the General Fund to DPI to issue a request for proposals from qualified vendors to contract with the independent consultant.

Requires the Committee to evaluate the impact of the dropout prevention grants awarded under SL 2007-323 and under this act; provides criteria for the evaluation process.

Requires the recipients of 2007-08 dropout prevention grants under SL 2007-323 to make reports to the Committee, by January 31, 2009 and September 30, 2009. Directs the Committee to make an interim report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under SL 2007-323 by March 31, 2009 and a final report by November 15, 2009, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

Also requires the recipients of 2008-09 dropout prevention grants under this act to make reports to the Committee, by January 31, 2010 and September 30, 2010. Directs the Committee to make an interim report of the results of its evaluation of the grants awarded under SL 2007-323 by March 31, 2010 and a final report by November 15, 2010, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

Effective July 1, 2008.

Intro. by Parmon, Fisher, Bryant, Tarleton.

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