moves to amend the bill on page 13, line 46, by increasing the dollar amount on that line by $10,000,000; and

on page 13, lines 49-50, by rewriting those lines to read:

"G.S. 115C-302.1, for the 2021-2024 school years, a veteran teacher, beginning teacher, or growth teacher may apply to his or her principal to be employed for a term of 11"; and

on page 14, line 8, by rewriting the line to read:

"a. Beginning teacher. – A teacher with three years or less experience as a licensed teacher.

a1. Growth teacher. – A teacher who received a bonus in January of 2020."; and

on page 17, line 19, through page 19, line 25, by deleting those lines; and

on page 19, lines 33-48, by rewriting those lines to read:

"SECTION 12.(c) Student Success Program. - Within the funds available pursuant to subdivision (6) of this subsection, the Department shall contract with the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) to establish and administer the Student Success Program to allow parents of eligible children to use federal funds intended to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 towards allowable educational uses of their choice to address student learning loss and provide supplemental educational support. However, prior to the expenditure of any funds provided under this subdivision, the Department of Public Instruction shall obtain a letter of determination from the United States Department of Education that the use of funds as required by this subdivision is consistent with federal law and guidelines for the expenditure of funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Upon receipt of the determination letter from the United States Department of Education that the funds may be used for this purpose, the Student Success Program (Program) shall be established according to the following:
(1) Program established; eligibility. – The Authority shall provide a one-time grant to eligible children through the Program. Grants awarded to eligible children shall be in an amount of one thousand dollars ($1,000) per child. For the purposes of this subdivision, an "eligible child" shall be a child residing in North Carolina who has not yet received a high school diploma and who meets all of the following requirements:

a. Is eligible to attend a North Carolina public school pursuant to G.S. 115C-366.

b. Has not enrolled in a postsecondary institution in a matriculated status eligible for enrollment for 12 hours of academic credit.

c. Resides in a household with an income level not in excess of one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.

(2) Applications; priority of awards. – The Authority shall make information on the Program and the application process available on its website. Grants shall be awarded to eligible children during the application period established by the Authority in the order they are received according to the following priority schedule:

a. Awards shall first be awarded to eligible children who reside in households with an income level below the federal poverty level.

b. After the application period is open for two months, grants may also be awarded to eligible children who reside in households with an income level at the amount required for a student to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

c. After the application period is open for four months, grants may also be awarded to eligible children who reside in households with an income level not in excess of one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the amount required for a student to qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

(3) Use of grant funds. – The Authority shall enter into a written agreement with the recipient of the grant to only use the funds for the following allowable expenditures prior to the receipt of the funds:

a. Tutoring services provided by an educator licensed by North Carolina, a person with experience teaching in higher education, or a person who has a bachelor’s degree or graduate degree in the subject area in which tutoring is provided.

b. Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional materials.

c. Therapies for children with disabilities from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider, including, but not limited to, occupational, behavioral, physical, and speech language therapies.

d. Educational programs or courses offered for a fee or pursuant to contract by a local educational agency, charter school, nonpublic
school, institution of higher education, or career and technical education program.

e. Fees for national standardized assessments, advanced placement examinations, examinations related to college or university admissions, or industry recognized certification examinations.

Grant funds must be spent by the recipient no later than September 1, 2023. Any unexpended funds remaining after September 1, 2023, shall be returned to the Authority and to the Department of Public Instruction.

(4) Authorizations; limitations. – Household members of applicants for grants shall authorize the Authority to access information needed for verification of applications that are held by other State agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Instruction. Any personally identifiable information included in an application related to eligible children receiving grants shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. For the purposes of this sub-subdivision, personally identifiable information means any information directly related to a child or members of a child’s household, including the name, birthdate, address, social security number, telephone number, email address, financial information, or any other information or identification number that would provide information about a specific child or members of a specific child’s household.

(5) Administration. – The Authority may contract with outside organizations to administer the Program, including a vendor that provides a virtual e-wallet platform and an e-commerce marketplace. The outside organizations may also include vendors, auditing firms, or financial institutions who can restrict the use of funds to allowable expenditures or firms that preauthorize allowable expenditures. Up to five percent (5.0%) of the funds available for the Program may be used for administrative costs, including to contract with outside organizations. The Authority shall adopt any necessary rules for the administration of the Program.

(6) Funds for the Program. – Notwithstanding Section 5A of S.L. 2021-1, as enacted by Section 1.2 of S.L. 2021-3, or any other provision of law to the contrary, after August 15, 2021, any unencumbered funds remaining from the funds made available in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Fund and reserved pursuant to subsection (c1) of Section 5 of S.L. 2021-1, as enacted by Section 1.3 of S.L. 2021-3, except for those funds reserved for the purposes set forth under subdivisions (6), (8), (9), (13), and (14) of Section 5A of S.L. 2021-1, shall be used for the purposes of the Program.

(7) Determination Letter. - Within 15 days of the date this act becomes law, the Department of Public Instruction shall seek a letter of determination from the United States Department of Education regarding the establishment of the
Student Success Program pursuant to this subsection and whether the use of funds for the Program is consistent with federal law and guidelines for the expenditure of funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, as described under the authorizing legislation. Upon receipt of the determination letter from the United States Department of Education, the Department of Public Instruction shall notify the Authority of a determination of consistency or inconsistency with federal law and guidelines on the use of funds under the proposed Program and the authorizing legislation. If the letter contains a determination that the use of funds is consistent with federal law and guidelines, as described under the authorizing legislation, the Authority shall open the application period for grants under subdivision (2) of this subsection, within 30 days of notification from the Department of Public Instruction."; and

by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED ________________________________
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED ________________________________
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED ___________ FAILED ___________ TABLED ___________