Representative Elmore moves to amend the bill on page 71, line 33, by replacing the word "seven" with the word "two";

and on page 78, line 22, to page 80, line 7, by rewriting the lines to read:

"(33) $800,000, of which up to fifty percent (50%) may be used prior to July 1, 2022, to establish a pilot program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296.2, to improve teacher quality and mitigate learning loss by providing a grant to teachers employed in qualifying public schools during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification, as follows:

a. Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this subdivision:

1. Public school. – Any of the following:
   I. A public school unit.
   II. A school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by The University of North Carolina under Articles 4 and 29 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.

2. Qualifying public school. – A public school that meets any of the following criteria:
   I. Is identified as a low-performing school pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 or G.S. 115C-218.94.
   II. Is identified as an innovative school pursuant to G.S. 115C-75.5.
   III. Enrolled a student body in the school year prior to the teacher's application consisting of at least ten percent (10%) of students identified as at-risk pursuant to State Board of Education policy DROP-001.

b. Grant applications and approval. – During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, a teacher employed in a qualifying public school may apply to the Department of Public Instruction to receive a grant to reimburse the cost of the participation fee for NBPTS certification. The
Department shall develop criteria and guidelines for administering the program. The criteria shall include at least the following requirements:

1. The Department shall prioritize the award of grants to teachers based on the need of the school where the teacher is employed at the time of the application, including at least the following criteria:
   I. A teacher employed in a qualifying public school with more qualifying factors, as identified in sub-sub-subdivisions I. through III. of sub-sub-subdivision 2. of sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, shall receive priority over a teacher employed in a qualifying public school with fewer qualifying factors.
   II. For teachers employed in qualifying schools pursuant to sub-sub-sub-subdivision III. of sub-sub-subdivision 2. of sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, teachers employed in schools with a higher percentage of at-risk students shall receive priority over teachers employed in schools with a lower percentage of at-risk schools.

2. The Department shall not require a teacher to complete the certification process in order to receive a grant.

Report. – No later than January 15, 2022, and each subsequent year thereafter in which funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision are awarded, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the impact of the program, including at least the following information:

1. Number of applicants and recipients of grants.
2. Demographic information of recipients of grants.
3. Employment status of recipients of grants, including the identity of any public school where the recipient is employed and whether the recipient remains employed with his or her original qualifying public school.
4. Licensure area of recipients of grants.
5. Effect of the program on the performance and growth of students taught by recipients;
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 105

AMENDMENT NO. A8
(to be filled in by Principal Clerk)

SIGNED ____________________________________________
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED ____________________________________________
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____________ FAILED _________________ TABLED _____________

The official copy of this document, with signatures and vote information, is available in the House Principal Clerk's Office