Amends Title [NO]  

Senator Hunt

moves to amend the bill on page 92, lines 30-48, by rewriting the lines to read:

"2023-24 Teacher Monthly Salary Schedule"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
<th>&quot;A&quot; Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25+</td>
<td>5,700&quot;;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and on page 94, lines 7-25, by rewriting the lines to read:

"2024-25 Teacher Monthly Salary Schedule"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
<th>&quot;A&quot; Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 7A.1.(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Instruction for teacher compensation shall be increased by three hundred thirteen million one hundred forty-four thousand one hundred thirty-seven dollars ($313,144,137) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and by three hundred fourteen million five hundred thirty thousand thirty-four dollars ($314,530,034) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

REINSTATE EDUCATION-BASED SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

SECTION 7A.2.(a) G.S. 115C-302.10 is repealed.

SECTION 7A.2.(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, State Board of Education policy TCP-A-006, as it was in effect on June 30, 2013, shall be used to determine (i) whether teachers and instructional support personnel are paid on the "M" salary schedule and (ii) whether they receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the six-year or doctoral degree level.

SECTION 7A.2.(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Instruction for master's pay shall be increased by eight million dollars ($8,000,000) in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

and on page 122, line 48, to page 132, line 35, by rewriting the lines read:

"REVISE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SECTION 8A.6.(a) G.S. 115C-562.8(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Any unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year from the funds appropriated in a particular fiscal year to be used for the award of scholarships in the following fiscal year shall be used as follows:

(1) Up to five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) may be used by the Authority to contract with a nonprofit corporation representing parents and families for outreach and scholarship education and application assistance for parents and students pursuant to Part 4A of this Article.
Any remaining funds shall be carried forward for one fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, transferred to the Department of Public Instruction to be allocated on the basis of average daily membership to public school units receiving funds pursuant to G.S. 115C-472.17."

SECTION 8A.6.(b) G.S. 115C-562.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
"(c1) An eligible student awarded a scholarship grant shall participate, if selected, in
denomination of a common examination selected by the Authority for purposes of program
evaluation as provided in G.S. 115C-562.7A to maintain eligibility for receipt of the scholarship
grant."

SECTION 8A.6.(c) G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:
"§ 115C-562.5. Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving
scholarship grants.

(a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall
comply with the following:

(1) Provide to the Authority documentation for required tuition and fees charged
to the student by the nonpublic school.

(2) Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff
member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the bylaws,
articles of incorporation, or other governing document, all employees of the
school. Information provided to the Authority in accordance with this
subdivision is privileged information and is not a public record but is for the
exclusive use of the Authority.

(3) Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and fees
are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, an annual written
explanation of the student's progress, including the student's scores on
standardized achievement tests.

(4) Administer, at least once in each school year, a nationally standardized test or
other nationally standardized equivalent measurement selected by the chief
administrative officer of the nonpublic school to all eligible students whose
tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant enrolled
in grades three and higher. For grades three through eight, the nationally
standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure
achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and
mathematics. For grades nine through twelve, the nationally standardized test or
other equivalent measurement selected must measure either (i) achievement
in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics or (ii)
competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas. Test performance data shall
be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of each year. Test performance data
reported to the Authority under this subdivision is not a public record under
Chapter 132 of the General Statutes."
(4a) Administer or allow administration of a common examination to those
students selected as provided in G.S. 115C-562.7A for purposes of program
evaluation.
(4b) Provide to the Authority grade retention rates for students receiving
scholarship grants and grade retention rates for the total number of students
enrolled.
(5) Provide to the Authority graduation rates of the students receiving scholarship
grants in a manner consistent with nationally recognized standards.
(6) Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review,
consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, for each school year
in which the school enrolls 70 or more students receiving scholarship grants
or scholarship funds awarded by the Authority.
(7) Provide free or reduced-price lunch to all eligible students consistent with the
federal free or reduced-price lunch program.
(8) Provide a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities in
accordance with Article 9 of this Chapter and federal law applicable to public
schools.
(9) Comply with curriculum standards for public schools as provided in Part 1 of
Article 8 of Chapter 115C of this Chapter.

(b) A nonpublic school that accepts students receiving scholarship grants shall not require
any additional fees based on the status of the student as a scholarship grant recipient.
(c) A nonpublic school enrolling more than 25 students whose tuition and fees are paid
in whole or in part with a scholarship grant shall report to the Authority on the aggregate
standardized test performance of eligible students. Aggregate test performance data reported to
the Authority which does not contain personally identifiable student data shall be a public record
under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Test performance data may be shared with public or
private institutions of higher education located in North Carolina and shall be provided to an
independent research organization selected by the Authority for research purposes as permitted

(c1) A nonpublic school shall not do any of the following:
   (1) Discriminate with respect to the categories listed in 42 U.S.C. §
       2000d, as that statute read on January 1, 2014, or otherwise
       under the North Carolina Constitution or the Constitution of the United States.
   (2) Require students to complete religious curriculum.
   (3) Require students to attend religious services.
   (4) Deny admission to a student who is a child with a disability.
   (5) Remove a child with a disability from the school by reason of his or her
       disability.
   (6) Provide all supporting services required of a public school under Article 17 of
       this Chapter, including transportation and school nutrition services.
   (7) Comply with Article 25B of this Chapter, Health Needs of Students, including
       adopting a school-based mental health plan.
Comply with G.S. 115C-105.49, G.S. 115C-105.49A, G.S. 115C-105.51, G.S. 115C-105.52, G.S. 115C-105.53, and G.S. 115C-105.54.

(d) If the Authority determines that a nonpublic school is not in compliance with the requirements of this section, the nonpublic school shall be ineligible to receive future scholarship funds. The nonpublic school shall notify the parent or guardian of any enrolled student receiving a scholarship grant that the nonpublic school is no longer eligible to receive future scholarship grants. The Authority shall establish by rule a process for a nonpublic school to appeal for reconsideration of eligibility after one year. To ensure compliance, the Board of Directors of the Authority shall review the criminal history information provided under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to ensure that the person has school employees have not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332, G.S. 115C-332 and are not otherwise insurrectionists or domestic terrorists. The Board shall determine through this review whether the nonpublic school is noncompliant with this section. The Board shall make written findings with regard to how the criminal history information was used when making the compliance determination. The Board of Directors may delegate any of the duties in this subsection to the Executive Director of the Authority. As part of its review, the Board shall determine whether the results indicate that the staff member has any of the following disqualifying characteristics:

1. Poses a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel.
2. Demonstrates that he or she does not have the integrity or honesty to fulfill his or her duties in overseeing State funds and the requirements of the scholarship grant program.
3. Has not fully satisfied the criminal sentencing obligations imposed following his or her conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 8A.6.(d) G.S. 115C-562.1(5) reads as rewritten:
"(5) Nonpublic school. – A school that meets the requirements of Part 1 or Part 2 of this Article as identified by the Division and meets the following requirements:
  a. Is incorporated in North Carolina.
  b. Is not a subsidiary of a corporation that is incorporated outside of North Carolina."

SECTION 8A.6.(e) G.S. 115C-562.7(c) reads as rewritten:
"(c) The Authority shall report annually, no later than December 1, to the Department of Public Instruction and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the following evaluation of the scholarship grants required by G.S. 115C-562.7A.

1. Learning gains or losses of students receiving scholarship grants. The report shall include learning gains of participating students on a statewide basis and shall compare, to the extent possible, the learning gains or losses of eligible students by nonpublic school to the statewide learning gains or losses of public school students with similar socioeconomic backgrounds, using aggregate standardized test performance data provided to the Authority by nonpublic schools and by the Department of Public Instruction.

2. Competitive effects on public school performance on standardized tests as a result of the scholarship grant program. The report shall analyze the impact of
the availability of scholarship grants on public school performance on standardized tests by local school administrative units to the extent possible, and shall provide comparisons of the impact by geographic region and between rural and urban local school administrative units.

This report shall be conducted by an independent research organization to be selected by the Authority, which may be a public or private entity or university. The independent research organization shall report to the Authority on the results of its research. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall review reports from the Authority and shall make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly as needed regarding improving administration and accountability for nonpublic schools accepting students receiving scholarship grants."

SECTION 8A.6.(f) Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-562.7A. Scholarship grant evaluations.

(a) Selection of Evaluator. – The Authority shall select an independent research organization, which may be a public or private entity or university, to conduct research for the reports required under G.S. 115C-562.7(c). In consultation with the independent research organization, the Authority shall select a common test to be used for purposes of the scholarship grant evaluations. The Authority shall provide information to the independent research organization related to both applicants and recipients for the scholarship grants for the purpose of establishing student samples to conduct the evaluation.

(b) Evaluation Reports. – The independent research organization selected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall conduct research and report to the Authority on the evaluation of at least the following:

(1) Learning gains or losses of students receiving scholarship grants. The report shall include learning gains of participating students and shall compare, to the extent possible, the learning gains or losses of eligible students by nonpublic school to the statewide learning gains or losses of public school students with similar socioeconomic backgrounds.

(2) Competitive effects on public school performance on standardized tests as a result of the scholarship grant program. The report shall analyze, to the extent possible, the impact of the availability of scholarship grants on public school performance on standardized tests by local school administrative units and shall provide comparisons of the impact by geographic region and between rural and urban local school administrative units.

(c) Evaluation Methods. – To ensure valid and reliable results, the independent research organization shall select samples of students who (i) receive the scholarship grant and attend nonpublic schools and (ii) meet eligibility requirements for the scholarship grant and attend a public school and shall administer a common test to those students for purposes of the scholarship grant evaluations. This testing shall be conducted so that the sample size shall be large enough to assure valid comparisons. If students selected for the sample have otherwise been administered the common test in that school year, the results of that test shall be provided to the independent research organization by the nonpublic or public school.
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AMENDMENT
House Bill 259

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(to be filled in by Principal Clerk)

Page 7 of 11

(d) Aggregate Test Information. – The Department of Public Instruction and the Authority shall provide aggregate test information for nonpublic and public students to the independent research organization upon request for the purpose of conducting the scholarship grant evaluation.

(e) Confidential Information. – All personally identifiable student information provided to the independent research organization for research purposes as permitted by the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g., shall be confidential and shall not be a public record."

SECTION 8A.6.(g) G.S. 115C-174.11(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(5) The Department of Public Instruction shall require local boards of education to participate in administration of a common examination to the sample of students enrolled in the local school administrative unit selected as provided in G.S. 115C-562.7A for purposes of evaluation of the scholarship grant program established in Part 2A of Article 39 of this Chapter. The testing shall be conducted with the smallest size sample of students necessary to assure valid comparisons."

SECTION 8A.6.(h) G.S. 115C-562.8(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Of the funds allocated to the Authority to award scholarship grants under this Part, the Authority may retain up to two and one half percent (2.5%) the lesser of four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated or two million one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($2,150,000) each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the scholarship grant program. The Authority shall use up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) each fiscal year to cover expenses related to the selection of an independent research organization to conduct evaluations pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.7A."

SECTION 8A.6.(i) Section 8.29(g) of S.L. 2013-360 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 8.29.(g) The Authority shall select an independent research organization, as required by G.S. 115C-562.7, as enacted by this section, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The first learning gains report required by G.S. 115C-562.7, as enacted by this section, shall not be due until December 1, 2018. The first financial review for a nonpublic school that accepts scholarship grant funds, as required by G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(6), as enacted by this section, shall not be required until the 2015-2016 school year."

SECTION 8A.6.(j) The Authority shall select an independent research organization to conduct the research required by G.S. 115C-562.7A, as enacted by this act, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The first learning gains report required by G.S. 115C-562.7A, as enacted by this act, shall not be due until December 1, 2024.

SECTION 8A.6.(k) Subsection (h) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2023.

The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law. Subsection (a) through (g) of this section apply beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. A nonpublic school enrolling a student receiving a scholarship grant for the 2023-2024 school year shall provide the Authority with data on grade retention required pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(4b), as enacted by this act, for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years.
SECTION 8A.6.(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve shall be decreased by one hundred five million dollars ($105,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and by one hundred sixty-three million dollars ($163,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.”;

and on page 144, by inserting between lines 31 and 32 the following new section to read:

"FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL NC PRE-K SLOTS

SECTION 9D.1A. Notwithstanding any provision of the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act or any provision of law to the contrary, there is appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of thirty million dollars ($30,000,000) in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to increase the number of slots by 5,000 in the North Carolina Prekindergarten (NC Pre-K) program.”;

and on page 92, lines 22-23, by inserting between those lines the following two new sections to read:

"PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 7.68. Subchapter VI of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new Articles to read:

"Article 29F.

"Parents' Bill of Rights.

§ 115C-407.70. Parents' bill of rights.

A parent has the right to the following:

(1) To access and review all education records, as authorized by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, relating to his or her child.

(2) To make healthcare decisions for his or her child, unless otherwise provided by law, including Article 1A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

(3) To have access to transparent data about school and district academic performance data.

(4) To have access to information, data, and statistics as to the successes, shortcomings, or failures of each school his or her child is allowed to attend.

(5) To know the nutrition facts of his or her child's meals.

(6) For his or her child to have a fully resourced classroom with the tools and technology to deliver curriculum requirements as required by the North Carolina Constitution.

(7) To receive timely notification of information related to his or her child's health, well-being, and education.

(8) To know of threats to his or her child's safety, whether to the child individually or to the school or local school administrative unit as a whole.
To have his or her child diagnosed and served by the education system for any learning disabilities that may affect the child's educational outcomes.

To be able to sit in his or her child's class, so long as it is within reasonable limits set by the local school administrative unit.

"Article 29G.

"Students' Bill of Rights.

§ 115C-407.75. Students' bill of rights.

A student has the right to the following:

(1) A learning environment in which discrimination in all forms is not tolerated by the public school unit or school administration, school police or security personnel, or students.

(2) A feeling of safety and comfort at school, including sufficient protections and resources for the public school and school unit, including physical and mental protections for students and staff.

(3) Teachers and other school personnel who follow special plans that affect the student's educational settings, such as individualized educational plans, 504 plans, and other accommodations.

(4) Extracurricular and after-school programs, the means and access to these programs, and to request new clubs.

(5) Information, resources, and support to prepare them for life after high school, including access to college readiness counselors and vocational counselors.

(6) A fully resourced classroom with the tools and technology to deliver curriculum requirements as required by the North Carolina Constitution.

(7) Affordable and nutritious food, including an option for breakfast and lunch.

(8) Due process, transparency within the discipline process, and freedom from searches of personal property without reasonable cause.

(9) Access to gang violence prevention, peer-based mediation, and substance abuse programs on campus.

(10) To organize, and have the opportunity to organize, themselves and be represented by their peers in important school decision-making processes.

(11) Self-representation in school district or charter school meetings and notification of school district or charter school meeting times and places and to organize collectively.

(12) Adequate access to and encouragement to use mental health and substance abuse services in educational settings and to be given resources to other outside mental health and substance abuse services.

(13) Access and the means to participate in school during emergencies, such as an epidemic or pandemic, natural disaster, national security threat, or other unforeseen event, including access to technology for online learning, mental health services, nutritional services, and college or career readiness support.

(14) Access a copy of the public school unit's student bill of rights and to seek changes to those rights when such changes will improve the learning environment."
A NURSE IN EVERY SCHOOL

SECTION 7.69.(a) G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(68) To Provide a School Nurse, – Local boards of education shall ensure that each school within the local school administrative unit has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. Boards may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

SECTION 7.69.(b) G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(49) To Provide a School Nurse, – The State Board of Education shall ensure that each school operated under the control of the State Board of Education, including schools operated under Article 9C of this Chapter, has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. The Board may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

SECTION 7.69.(c) G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(k) To Provide a School Nurse, – A charter school shall ensure that the school has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. The Charter School may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

SECTION 7.69.(d) G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(19) To Provide a School Nurse, – A regional school shall ensure that the school has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. The school may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

SECTION 7.69.(e) G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(22) To Provide a School Nurse, – A laboratory school shall ensure that the school has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. The school may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

SECTION 7.69.(f) Notwithstanding any provision of the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the 2023-2024 fiscal year the sum of one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) in recurring funds to increase the School Health Support Allotment, as established by this act, to ensure all public schools can provide school nursing services.";

and on page 271, lines 49-50, by inserting between those lines the following new section to read:

"HONORING THE STATE'S CIVIL RIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS
SECTION 14.11.(a) The African American Heritage Commission (hereinafter 'Commission') is authorized to study the feasibility of establishing monuments commemorating events relating to the civil rights movement in North Carolina and the State's citizens that contributed to the civil rights movement. In conducting its study, the Commission shall hold public hearings/meetings to get citizen input. By May 1, 2024, the Commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources.

SECTION 14.11.(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, African American Heritage Commission, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to aid the Commission in its current work of placing markers, signage, and other memorials to commemorate significant cultural or historical importance relating to North Carolina's Civil Rights Trail.

and on page 378, lines 29-43, by deleting the lines;

and on page 13, lines 31-32, by inserting the following between the lines:

"SECTION 2.2.(s) There is appropriated from the General Fund for the 2023-2024 fiscal year the sum of one hundred eighty-four million four hundred forty-four thousand one hundred thirty-seven dollars ($184,444,137) in additional funds.";

and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED ________________________________________________________________
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED ________________________________________________________________
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED ____________ FAILED ________________ TABLED ____________