



**Palmetto State Teachers Association
Legislative Alert Network**

May 15, 2017

LAN Members,

House Bill 3969 has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate and is currently in a conference committee made up of three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate. This bill will merge the state and federal accountability systems into one system. We have concerns with the House version of Section 59-18-1960 of this bill. This specifies that the state will use a **value added system** to calculate student progress or growth and could potentially be used to evaluate teachers.

Value added models have proven to be unreliable and not an effective way of evaluating teachers or showing adequate progress of students. Lawsuits are being brought all over the country because of inaccuracies in the **value added system**. We support the Senate version of Section 59-18-1960 that will use a growth measurement system approved by the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee.

This bill will be debated this week in conference committee and the committee will determine the version of the bill that will head to the Governor's desk. We encourage you to contact members of the conference committee and encourage them to adopt the Senate version of Section 59-18-1960, which does not include a **value added system** but uses a growth measurement system instead, which PSTA believes the best way to show student growth is over the course of an entire school year. Contact members of the conference committee and ask them to adopt the Senate version of Section 59-18-1960 of the accountability bill.

Make Your Teacher Voices Heard!

Senate Version of House Bill 3969:

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122_2017-2018/prever/3969_20170510.htm

House Bill 3969 Conference Committee

House of Representatives Conferees

Rep. Rita Allison - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0015909089>

Rep. Robert Brown - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0220454519>

Rep. Raye Felder - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0570454477>

Senate Conferees

Sen. Greg Hembree - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0819318084>

Sen. John Matthews - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1186363494>

Sen. Scott Talley - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1784090695>