

STATEHOUSE REPORT



S T A R T E P H O R U S E

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The 2nd regular session of the 122nd General Assembly reconvened on January 9, 2018.

The House Ways and Means Committee completed their work on the budget. Highlights include:

- Maintaining the Base Student Cost at \$2,425 (They recommended no increase)
- 2% statewide teacher salary increase
- Raising salaries for beginning teachers to \$32,000
- \$8 million for leasing school buses
- \$22 million for Aid to Districts (technology, reading, and professional development)
- \$11 million in technical assistance for low performing schools
- \$2 million increase for career and technology education
- \$4.2 million increase for the required 1% retirement fund increase
- No increase in health insurance premiums

The Senate will begin their work on the budget soon.

Bills of Interest

Senate Bill 822 by Sen. Fanning and others – This bill would exempt certified educators from the earning limitation of \$10,000 set in the South Carolina Retirement System. This bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 823 by Sen. Fanning – This bill would allow school districts to start school as early as the second Monday in August. This bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

House Bill 4963 by Rep. King and others – This bill would require public school districts to ensure the presence of one school resource officers for every 500 students. The district can enter into an agreement to split the cost of the officer with the municipality or county or hire an officer or employee to serve as the officer. This employee or officer would have to meet the minimum requirements of being a sworn law enforcement officer. This bill is in the House Education and Public Works Subcommittee.

House Bill 3513 by Rep. Anthony – This bill will provide Retired Educator teaching certificates. A Retired Educator certificate is a renewable certificate that allows a retired South Carolina educator to be eligible to maintain certification for the purpose of substitute teaching. The educator must have held a valid South Carolina professional certificate at the time of retirement. This bill received a favorable report in the Senate Education Committee and is on the Senate calendar.

Senate Bill 888 by Sen. Hembree and others – This bill would allow certain public school faculty members annually may receive payments for unused annual leave and sick leave in excess of 90 days at the established substitute rate or the rate established by the local school board. This bill was amended to allow the board or governing body to choose the rate and added governing board for charter schools. The bill was also amended to ensure policy was aligned with district budget and to avoid an unintended consequence of a large initial payout, provide that days in excess of 90 begin accruing after July 1, 2018. This bill passed the Senate and is now is the House Education and Public Works Subcommittee.

House Bill 4810 by Rep. Gilliard and others – This bill would create the School Metal Detector Study Committee. The bill was amended to add an appointment from the Superintendent of Education and the appointment have experience in law enforcement. The bill passed the House of Representatives and is the Senate K-12 Education Subcommittee.

House Bill 3052 by Representative Putnam and others – This bill may allow public schools and public school district offices to authorized employees who hold a public school concealed weapons permit (PSCWP) to have a concealed firearm on school property. This bill is in the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 27 by Senator Campsen and others - This bill would provide for the appointment of the Superintendent of Education by the Governor with the consent of the Senate who will provide the term and qualifications. This bill received a favorable report in the Senate Education Committee. The amendment in the full Senate added that candidates have a master's degree and substantive and broad based experience in public education. This bill received third reading in the Senate and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 3146 by Rep. Delleney and others - This joint resolution would place a referendum which will appear on the ballot during the 2018 statewide election and the people of South Carolina will decide whether to continue electing the Superintendent of Education or have the Governor provide an appointment. If the people vote to have the Governor appoint, this would go into effect in January 2023 unless a vacancy in the office happens before that date. This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 137 by Sen. Campsen and others - This bill is similar to House Bill 3146. This bill received a favorable report in Senate Judiciary and is on the Senate calendar. Senator Johnson has placed his name on the bill.

Visit www.scstatehouse.gov to find who your senators and representatives are. Make sure you are registered to vote by **May 12, 2018** so you can vote in the June 12th primary for Governor, Superintendent of Education, and other Constitutional Offices.

**Be sure to get your tickets to see
Gerry Brooks at the 2018 PSTA
Convention on April 7th. Purchase
tickets at**

www.2018pstaconvention.eventbrite.com