

Legislative Update June 15, 2023

Headed to the Governor's Desk

Yesterday, the House and the Senate gave final approval to the FY 24 Appropriations Act Conference Committee report. Little, if any, discussion took place once the report was presented to each body. The bill now moves to the Governor's desk for his review. The Governor has 5 days (excluding Sunday) to issue his vetoes. Both bodies indicated yesterday that once the vetoes were issued, leadership (majority and minority) would determine whether the bodies would return next week to deal with vetoes or wait until January to do so.

As part of the conference report, one education related proviso included in House 2 was rejected by the Senate. The conferees rejected the House-passed changes to proviso 1.50. The change would have granted the High School League the authority to adjust classifications to promote competitive balance.

Also note that proviso 108.16 suspending the earning limitations for members of the South Carolina Retirement System not employed for at least 12 consecutive months after retirement has been extended to next fiscal year:

108.16. (PEBA: PORS and SCRS Return to Work)

...For compensation earnings during the current fiscal year, the earnings limitation does not apply if a member of the South Carolina Retirement System has not been engaged to perform services for a participating employer in the system or any other system provided in Title 9 for compensation in any capacity, whether as an employee, independent contractor, leased employee, joint employee, or other classification of worker, for a period of at least twelve consecutive months subsequent to retirement. The exemption provided under this provision does not apply unless the member first certifies to the system that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption. If a member inaccurately certifies that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption provided in this provision, the member is responsible for reimbursing the system for any benefits wrongly paid to the member.

The summary below outlines the education related appropriations found in the [FY 24 Appropriations Act](#) passed yesterday.

FY 24 Conference Committee Recommendations:

State Aid to Classrooms

- \$172.9 million – General Fund
- \$151.4 million – EIA

General Fund Appropriations

- \$17.3 million – Bus Driver Pay (20% State Contribution)

- \$2.24 million – SCDE CERDEP
- \$8.3 million (non-recurring) – 26 items Education Related

EIA Appropriations

Recurring

- \$3 million – Computer Science Education
- \$500,000 – Adult Education
- \$9.5 million – Career and Technology Education
- \$300,000 – Reading Instruction Assessment for Elementary Teachers
- \$1.5 million – Math Resources and Support (Teach to One)
- \$3.3 million – Intensive Development Education and Therapy Services
- \$3 million – Teacher Supplies (from \$300 to \$350)
- \$10.2 million – SCDE CERDEP

Non-Recurring

- \$16.5 million – SCDE Grants Committee
- \$30 million – Instructional Materials
- \$15 million – High Intensity Tutoring
- \$3 million – Artificial Intelligence
- \$20.6 million – School Bus Lease/Purchase
- \$120 million – Capital Funding for Schools
- \$39 million – Literacy Instruction Program
- \$2 million – ESA Trust Fund Start Up Administration
- \$10.2 million – Instructional Support for Districts (LMS, LOR, & AMS)
- \$400,000 – K-12 Concussion Protocol
- \$300,000 – SC Academic Tutorial Services
- \$6.2 million – 10 Education Related Programs

Lottery Appropriations

- \$4 million – School Bus Lease/Purchase (Proceeds and Interest Earned)
- \$4.4 million – School Bus Lease/Purchase (Unclaimed Prizes)
- Unclaimed Prizes in Excess of \$20 million – School Bus Lease/Purchase

Other Appropriations

- \$121.5 million – State Health Plan (Employee Increases)
- \$40.1 million – 1% Retirement Contribution Increase
- \$155.6 million – State Employee Base Pay Increase (Additional 5% for School Bus Drivers)