May 18, 2006

H 2317. TEACHER RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT. Filed 5/18/06. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION*. Appropriates $20 million for 2006-07 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for local initiatives to recruit and retain teachers. Provides that State Board of Education must allocate funds 40% on the basis of average membership, 35% on the basis of the low-wealth supplemental funding formula, and 25% on the basis of growth in student membership over the past four years. Allows funds to be used for, among other things, recruiting bonuses, interest-free loans to teachers, and annual bonuses for teachers in fields in which there is a shortage of qualified teachers. Directs the State Board of Education to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the effectiveness of these initiatives by December 15, 2006.

Appropriates $3 million for 2006-07 for these bonuses to teachers who are nationally certified who teach in schools at which at least 80% of the students are eligible for a subsidized lunch or at least 50% of the students perform below grade level. Limits the number of teachers qualifying for program in 2006-07 to 1500. Provides that teachers that receive bonuses under the program who are reassigned to teach elsewhere or in other fields are not deemed to be demoted as provided in GS 115C-325(a)(4).

Adds new GS 105-151.30 to establish a North Carolina individual income tax credit for full-time permanent teachers employed for at least 16 weeks during the taxable year who spend at least 50% of the day providing classroom instruction. Establishes a $500 credit for teachers with at least one but less than five years experience and a $1,000 credit for teachers with at least five but less than ten years experience. Allows unused portions of the tax credit to be carried forward for the succeeding five years. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007. Repeals the credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009.

Effective July 1, 2006.

Intro. by Carney, Johnson, Preston, Yongue. GS 105, APPROP