March 21, 2007

S 1386. NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS & TEACHER MERIT PAY. Filed 3/21/07. *DIRECTING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE VOUCHERS TO STUDENTS NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS AND TO ESTABLISH A MERIT PAY SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL*.

To be summarized in tomorrow's *Daily Bulletin.*

Intro. by Hunt. GS 20, 115C, 116

March 22, 2007

S 1386. NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS & TEACHER MERIT PAY. Filed 3/21/07. *DIRECTING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE VOUCHERS TO STUDENTS NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS AND TO ESTABLISH A MERIT PAY SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL*.

Vouchers. Amends GS 115C-366 to require that local boards of education (1) allow a student that lives within a one-half mile radius of an age-appropriate school to attend that school or (2) provide a voucher to the student to attend a nonpublic school. Requires that the voucher equal the average allocation in state and local funds for the local education agency (LEA).

Merit pay. Amends GS 115C-302.1 to implement a salary system for teachers and instructional support personnel that includes merit pay. Directs the State Board of Education to establish an entry level salary schedule based on levels of certification, including advanced degrees. Provides that the principal may decide if there is a basis to pay an employee more than the entry level salary based on the employee's qualifications or experience, or as a tool to recruit and retain teachers in certain areas of certification. Provides that employees receive cost-of-living increases but no additional across the board incremental increases. Additionally, eliminates salary step increments for years of experience. Provides that the principal of each school is to determine the amount of merit pay that each employee receives annually in accordance with local board of education policy. Specifies that teachers and instructional support personnel who are not paid out of state funds are to receive a cost-of-living increment and merit pay in the same manner as employees who are paid from state funds. Makes conforming changes eliminating references to experience increments and provisions regarding longevity pay.

Also makes changes regarding annual leave, providing that instructional support personnel who have accumulated more than 30 days of annual leave may convert the excess to sick leave (was, limited to teachers).

Amends GS 20-88.1(b) to specify that driver education instructors who hold teaching certification are to be paid under the same terms as other teachers. Makes additional technical and conforming changes. Applies beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

Intro. by Hunt. GS 20, 115C, 116