

South Carolina General Assembly
118th Session, 2009-2010

H. 3352

STATUS INFORMATION

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Cooper, Owens, Stewart and Whitmire

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Introduced in the House on January 27, 2009

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: Not yet available

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
1/27/2009	House	Introduced and read first time
1/27/2009	House	Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

A JOINT RESOLUTION

TO ALLOW LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS TO TRANSFER FUNDS AMONG APPROPRIATED REVENUES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF ACADEMIC AND ARTS INSTRUCTION DURING THE 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 FISCAL YEARS; TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 TO SUSPEND CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL STAFFING RATIOS, TO TRANSFER FUNDS, TO DELAY THE DATE THAT TEACHER CONTRACTS ARE ISSUED, AND TO NEGOTIATE SALARIES FOR RETIRED AND TERI TEACHERS BELOW MINIMUM SALARY REQUIREMENTS; TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 FISCAL YEARS TO FURLOUGH TEACHERS AND SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS; TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; TO SUSPEND CERTAIN FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PURCHASE THE MOST ECONOMICAL TYPE OF BUS FUEL FOR THE 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 FISCAL YEARS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. For the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years, school districts and special schools of this State may transfer among appropriated state revenues, excluding lottery funds, as needed to ensure the delivery of academic and arts instruction to students.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding another provision of law and for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years, school districts must be granted:

1. suspension from professional staffing ratios and regulations and guidelines requiring expenditures at the subfund level;
2. permission to transfer funds among funding categories, including capital funds from the Children's Education Endowment Fund and excluding funds required for debt service or bonded indebtedness;
3. permission to delay the date that contracts are issued to teachers from April 15 to May 15;
4. permission to negotiate salaries for retired teachers or teachers participating in the TERI program below the minimum salary requirements.

If specified in the contract or if the district is otherwise authorized by law to furlough teachers, a district may furlough teachers for up to five noninstructional days provided that school and district administrators are furloughed for an equivalent number of days. All other program regulations, guidelines, reporting, and audit requirements remain in effect unless addressed in this joint resolution. To further ensure resources are maximized, districts are encouraged to limit the number of low enrollment courses, expand virtual instruction, and, to the extent possible, develop schedules to minimize transportation costs of extracurricular and academic competitions.

The school district board of trustees must certify that specific actions were taken in response to the measures provided in Sections 1 and 2 of this joint resolution. The certification and report must be in writing and delivered, on a quarterly basis, to the State Superintendent of Education, and a copy must be forwarded to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding another provision of law and for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years, implementation of formative assessments for grades one, two, and nine, the foreign language program assessment, the physical education assessment, and new textbook adoptions must be suspended. School districts must be granted permission to purchase the most economical type of bus fuel.

SECTION 4. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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