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SENATE BILL NO. 1215

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-289.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to compensation of public school teachers and other Standards of Quality-funded positions; competitive rate.

Patrons—Lucas, Locke and McClellan; Delegates: Rasoul and Shin

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-289.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-289.1. Teacher compensation; competitive rate; calculation; review.

~~It is a goal of the Commonwealth that shall compensate its public school teachers be compensated at a rate that is competitive in order to attract and keep highly qualified teachers. As used in this section, "competitive" means, at a minimum, at or above the national average teacher salary. The Department shall conduct an annual calculation to determine the estimated national average teacher salary for each year of the current budget biennium. Such calculation shall rely on the most up-to-date data from the source of the 50-state average salary of K-12 teachers in public school set forth in the annual Virginia Compared with the Other States report published by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. In making such calculation, the Department may use the trends of the percent change for the national average teacher salaries in the two to four years prior to project averages in each year of the current and upcoming biennia. The results of such calculation shall be reported to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Board by June 1 of each year. The Department of Education shall also conduct a biennial review of the compensation of teachers and shall consider the Commonwealth's compensation for teachers relative to the national average teacher salary. The results of these reviews each such review shall be reported to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Board of Education by June 1 of each odd-numbered year.~~

2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2024.

3. That state funding shall be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act in a sum sufficient to fund a flat percent annual pay increase for each individual employed in a Standards of Quality-funded position, provided that such increase yields the state portion required to meet or exceed the national teacher pay average in the Commonwealth as required pursuant to § 22.1-289.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and (i) is subject to a local matching requirement in accordance with each local school board's composite index of local ability-to-pay and (ii) shall be adjusted annually as necessary to account for rebenchmarking and to yield a rate of compensation percentage increase for all Standards of Quality-funded positions that is pegged to providing a competitive average teacher salary in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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