

SENATE BILL 1168

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8 and Title 49, relative to establishing an incentive program for educators who have fifteen or more years' experience in education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

The office of research and education accountability (OREA), in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, shall study and make recommendations for the implementation of an incentive program for educators who have fifteen (15) or more years' experience in education. OREA shall report its findings and recommendations for implementation of the incentive program to the education committee of the senate and the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over educator benefits by December 31, 2025.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

White
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1168

House Bill No. 778*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1.

- (a) The office of research and education accountability (OREA), in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, shall conduct a study and make recommendations for the implementation of an incentive program for educators who have fifteen (15) or more years' experience in education.
- (b) As part of the study, OREA may consider:
 - (1) A compensation-based structure for awarding bonuses or salary increases to educators based on their years of service;
 - (2) Including, for educators who have resigned or retired from teaching only to return to teaching at a later date, all combined years of service spent as an educator in the calculation of the educator's years of service;
 - (3) Excluding temporary absences in employment due to an educator's use of approved leave for military service, maternity, adoption, recuperation of health, or death of a relative, from being considered a break in service;
 - (4) Whether an educator has served as an educator in other states; and
 - (5) Including, for educators who transition from a teaching role to another field or role in the school system, all years of service provided by the educator to the school system through the alternative field or role in the calculation of the educator's years of service, in addition to their years of service as an educator.

(c) OREA shall report its findings from the study and its recommendations for implementation of the incentive program described in subsection (a) to the education committee of the senate and the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over educator compensation and benefits by December 31, 2025.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.