HB0001H3026

[BUDGET(s) AFFECTED]

Section Under Consideration:

Section 300s. ADDITION TO 300 SECTIONS

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Page 140-after line 25 Insert the following new section and renumber as necessary:

"[K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE RECRUITING AND RETENTION BONUSES]

(a) For the period commencing July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, there is appropriated twenty-three million one hundred thousand dollars (\$23,100,000.00) from the school foundation program account for the purpose of a recruitment and retention bonus for school year 2022-2023. This appropriation shall be limited to school district staff allocated within the education resource block grant model, excluding principals, assistant principals, superintendents, assistant superintendents, business managers and directors. This appropriation shall also be used to provide a recruitment and retention bonus for special education and transportation staff, excluding directors, reimbursed under W.S. 21-13-320 and 21-13-321. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose.

(b) Not later than August 1, 2022, each school district shall submit the total district payroll, including employer paid variable benefit expenses and excluding retirement benefits, funded by nonfederal funds for school year 2021-2022 and any employer paid health insurance premiums, together with any additional information required by the department of education for school district staff identified in subsection (a) of this section. Amounts reported under this subsection shall exclude bonuses or extra compensation paid in excess of the staff's annual contract or regular salary amount.

(c) The department of education shall determine payments authorized under this section for each school district by multiplying the amount reported under subsection (b) of this section by three percent (3%). Payments to school districts under this subsection shall be made by the department of education on or before November 15, 2022. Payments to school districts computed

under this section shall be made by the department of education from amounts within the school foundation program account as appropriated by the legislature under subsection (a) of this section and shall be in addition to the school year 2022-2023 foundation program amount computed for each district under W.S. 21-13-309(p). If there is an insufficient amount within the appropriation under subsection (a) of this section, the department of education shall make a pro rata reduction in school district payments.

(d) The amounts distributed under subsection (c) of this section shall not be included in the calculation of highest average salary by Wyoming retirement system in accordance with rules on cash remuneration and shall include all benefits attributable to the respective staff receiving the bonus payment. Any amount distributed under subsection (c) of this section shall not be included in the transportation and special education adjustments to the education resource block grant model under W.S. 21-13-320 and 21-13-321 for school year 2022-2023 and reported for reimbursement in the subsequent school year.

(e) Not later than February 1, 2023, the board of trustees of each recipient school district under this section shall certify to the department of education that the distribution was expended only for a recruitment and retention bonus for school district staff identified in subsection (a) of this section for school year 2022-2023."

To the extent required by this amendment: adjust totals; and renumber as necessary. SOMMERS