

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1642 – SB 1654

February 1, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires current public school teachers who volunteer as mentors for the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program (TPSP) to receive credit for up to one day of in-service each year for becoming mentors and completing all required mentorship tasks. Declares that the one day of credit for mentoring shall count as one day of in-service during those in-service days in which a teacher is permitted to choose the in-service activity. Requires retired teachers who volunteer as mentors in the TPSP to be included in the state employee discount program for one year following the completion of all required mentorship tasks.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Decrease State Revenue – \$9,000/Public Higher Education Institutions

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (011656): Deletes Section 1, subdivision 2 of the bill and replaces it with language authorizing retired teachers who serve as mentors in the TPSP to be eligible for the Tennessee state employee discount program with the exception of the tuition waivers that are currently available for state employees or their dependents at public institutions of higher education. Retired teachers who mentor TPSP recipients' shall be eligible for inclusion in the state employee discount program for a period of one year following the completion of all required mentorship tasks.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

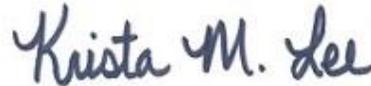
- Retired teachers who serve as mentors and their dependents would not be eligible for tuition waivers at public higher education institutions as a result of completing TPSP mentorship tasks.
- Dependents of retired teachers who are currently eligible to receive a tuition discount will maintain their eligibility.

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- Based on information from the Department of Human Resources (DOHR), vendors request to be added to the information displayed on the state employee discount webpage. DOHR does not grant employees use of the webpage. Therefore, it is unclear what information vendors participating in the program would require from a participating mentor to verify that the individual was an eligible retired employee.
- No impact on the operations of the Department of Education or the Basic Education Program (BEP).
- Qualifying mentor teachers will be granted an in-service day on a previously-scheduled in-service day during which the teacher is authorized to choose the in-service activity.
- No increase in local expenditures for additional substitute teachers or for additional paid in-service days that are not included in the regular calendar.
- Based on information from the TSAC, there will be no impact on operations or the lottery scholarship program.
- TN Achieves is the non-profit organization that facilitates the TPSP mentors. Any cost associated with providing a method of tracking volunteers for the purposes of in-service days or for retired teachers to be included in the state employee discount program will be borne by TN Achieves. Therefore, no increase in state or local expenditures for these activities.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/rbp