



March 4, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) or public charter school to retain a student in the third grade who has not shown a basic understanding of the curriculum and an ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading or English language arts (ELA) as determined by the student's grades or standardized test results. Requires an LEA or public charter school to offer eligible third-grade students the opportunity to attend a learning loss bridge camp before the start of the next school year. Prohibits an LEA or public charter school from requiring a third-grade student to attend a learning loss bridge camp or condition the student's promotion to the fourth grade on the student's attendance or successful completion of a learning loss bridge camp.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The current third grade retention law takes effect at the end of the 2022-23 school year and requires a student in the third grade to not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English language arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test.
- The proposed legislation deletes the current third grade retention law set to take effect at the end of the 2022-23 school year in its entirety.
- The proposed legislation further removes the requirement for LEAs and public charter schools to retain students in the third grade who do not meet certain testing benchmarks.
- Retaining a student in the third grade will now be discretionary and attendance in a learning loss bridge camp optional. Any impact on attendance at such camps is assumed to be not significant. DOE will be required to update retention guidance documents and communicate with districts on the changes to retention law.
- LEAs, public charter schools, and DOE will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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