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Date: 3/1/2013 1:32:46 AM

Subject: First Steps - Reauthorization Amendment

Attachments: (2013-02-27) S 291 - First Steps Reauth - Draft Amend (v01).docx

Swati,

I've attached an amendment to S.291, which is the First Steps bill. We've promised to get this to Sen. Fair today (Friday). I need your help on a couple of quick points before we give it to him...

First, would you mind just eyeballing it and looking for any glaring screw-ups?

Second...we're working on this because the reauthorization for First Steps expires July 1st, but as I went through this...I'm not actually sure it does anything about that. This bill reforms the program, but doesn't explicitly continue it. The term "reauthorize" doesn't appear anywhere, and it doesn't repeal the original sunset language. So if we want to make some reforms and just do a two-year extension at the same time, then what are my options? As I've looked through the legislative history...it's clear that reauthorization doesn't quite work here as I'm used to it working. Here's the relevant background for you...

From the original act (Act 1999-99, H. 3620):

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. The provisions of this act are repealed July 1, 2007, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.

From the reauthorization (H. 4406 of 2006):

SECTION 1. Act 99 of 1999, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Act, is reauthorized until July 1, 2013.
SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

I just searched the LPITS website, and there aren't any relevant bills/JRs in this session that contain the term "reauthorized."

Can I just add a passage to the end of my amendment that says something like this: "Act 99 of 1999, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Act, is reauthorized as amended until July 1, 2015." Or does passing S.291 in any form count as a permanent reauthorization if the bill is otherwise silent? I just want to be sure I get this part right, since it's a critical piece. Thanks.

CLS

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