FIRST REPORT OF FIRST CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SB18-085

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Your first conference committee appointed on SB18-085, concerning providing financial incentives for educators to work in rural areas, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation, has met and reports that it has agreed upon the following:

That the Senate accede to the House amendments made to the bill, as the amendments appear in the rerevised bill, with the following changes:

Amend rerevised bill, page 4, strike lines 11 through 15 and substitute:

"(5) "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER" MEANS A PERSON, OTHER THAN A TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR, WHO PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF AN INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM. "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS" INCLUDES SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AUDIOLOGISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, COUNSELORS, NURSES, AND SOCIAL WORKERS.".

Page 5, after line 10 insert:

"(1.5) IF IN ANY ONE FISCAL YEAR, THE NUMBER OF STIPEND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION EXCEEDS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF STIPENDS AVAILABLE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER

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EDUCATION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY FOR STIPEND AWARDS TO TEACHERS WHO HAVE SECURED EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.".