

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/19/03 H3/20/03*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2903

5 By: Representatives Harris, C. Johnson, Green, Thomas, Elliott, Penix, Dickinson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL BONUS OF TEACHERS  
10 OBTAINING NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL  
11 TEACHING STANDARDS CERTIFICATION; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL BONUS OF  
16 TEACHERS OBTAINING NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
17 PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS  
18 CERTIFICATION.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413 is amended to read as follows:*

24 *6-17-413. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*  
25 *certification funding.*

26 *(a)(1)(A) The Department of Education shall pay the full amount of the*  
27 *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' participation fee and*  
28 *provide, if determined to be necessary by the department, substitute pay for*  
29 *a maximum of three (3) days of approved paid leave for teachers selected by*  
30 *the State Board of Education to participate in the national board's program.*

31 *(B) A teacher shall have completed at least three (3)*  
32 *years of teaching in the Arkansas public school system before applying for*  
33 *the assistance under this section and § 6-17-412 and shall not have*  
34 *previously received state funding for participation in any certification area*  
35 *in the national board's program.*

36 *(2) The state board shall promulgate rules and regulations for*



1 the selection process of teacher participants in the national board's  
 2 program. The number of teacher participants each year will be determined by  
 3 the amount of funding available for the program.

4 (3)(A) The department shall pay a starting incentive bonus of  
 5 ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) upon receiving  
 6 the national board's certification and a yearly incentive bonus of ~~two~~  
 7 ~~thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school  
 8 year for the life of the national board's certificate to any classroom  
 9 teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal who:

10 (i) Is selected by the state board to participate in  
 11 the national board's program;

12 (ii) Successfully completes the national board's  
 13 certification process;

14 (iii) Receives national board certification; and

15 (iv) Is, at the time of receiving the bonus,  
 16 employed full time as a classroom teacher, a building-level principal, or a  
 17 building-level assistant principal in an Arkansas public school district.

18 (B) Any nationally board-certified teacher who moves into  
 19 the state and is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level  
 20 principal, or building-level assistant principal in an Arkansas public school  
 21 district shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of ~~two thousand~~  
 22 ~~dollars (\$2,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school year the  
 23 person is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level  
 24 principal, or building-level assistant principal in a local public school  
 25 district for the life of the national board's certificate.

26 ~~(C) The department shall pay increased incentive bonuses~~  
 27 ~~each school year that sufficient funds have been appropriated and are~~  
 28 ~~available for paying the increased bonuses, as follows:~~

29 ~~(i) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in addition to~~  
 30 ~~the starting incentive bonus provided in subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this~~  
 31 ~~section; and~~

32 ~~(ii) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in addition to~~  
 33 ~~the yearly incentive bonuses provided in subdivisions (a)(3)(A) and (a)(3)(B)~~  
 34 ~~of this section.~~

35 ~~(D)(C)~~ (C) The increased incentive bonuses provided in  
 36 ~~subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section~~ this act of 2003 shall not be

1 ~~retroactive, and no obligations shall accumulate for school years in which~~  
 2 ~~sufficient funds are not appropriated or available.~~

3 ~~(E)(D)~~ No person shall receive a starting bonus and a  
 4 yearly incentive for the same school year.

5 ~~(F)(E)~~ No person shall receive either a starting incentive  
 6 bonus or a yearly incentive bonus, irrespective of the person's past  
 7 participation in the national board's certification as either a teacher, a  
 8 building-level principal, or a building-level assistant principal if the  
 9 person:

10 (i) Leaves the full-time employment of an Arkansas  
 11 public school district;

12 (ii) Becomes employed as a district-level central  
 13 office administrator;

14 (iii) Is employed by an Arkansas institution of  
 15 higher education; or

16 (iv) Is employed by an education service cooperative  
 17 and does not teach in a classroom with students.

18 ~~(G)(F)~~ At the time that the national board establishes a  
 19 national board certification for school administrators and an Arkansas  
 20 district-level central office administrator becomes national board certified,  
 21 the district-level central office will be eligible to receive incentive  
 22 bonuses in the amount awarded to national board certified teachers for every  
 23 year for the life of the national board's administrator certificate.

24 (4) The state board is authorized to promulgate rules and  
 25 regulations to establish a support program for teachers selected to  
 26 participate in the national board's program.

27 (b)(1) A teacher who receives state moneys for the national board's  
 28 participation fee but who does not complete the certification process within  
 29 three (3) years after the teacher's entry into the national board's  
 30 certification program or who becomes national board-certified but does not  
 31 teach or serve as a building-level principal in the Arkansas public school  
 32 system for two (2) continuous school years after receiving the national  
 33 board's certification shall repay the department the amount it contributed to  
 34 the national board's participation fee and the total amount it contributed to  
 35 any yearly bonus.

36 (2) If the teacher, principal, or assistant principal leaves the

1 employment of a public school district before the two (2) continuous years  
2 are completed and is employed by an Arkansas institution of higher education  
3 or employed by an education service cooperative and the teacher does not  
4 teach in a classroom with students, the teacher, principal, or assistant  
5 principal shall repay the department the amount it contributed to the  
6 national board's participation fee and the total amount it contributed to any  
7 yearly salary bonus.

8 (3) The state board may suspend the Arkansas teacher's license  
9 of any person that fails, when required to do so, to repay moneys contributed  
10 by the department for the national board certification program.

11 (4) Repayment of moneys contributed by the department is not  
12 required if, due to the death or disability of the teacher or other  
13 extenuating circumstances as may be recognized by the state board, the  
14 teacher does not complete the national board's certification process or does  
15 not teach in the Arkansas public school system for two (2) continuous school  
16 years after completing the national board's certification process.

17 (c) Provisions of this section and § 6-17-412 shall apply only to the  
18 extent that funds are appropriated to the department to pay for these  
19 provisions.

20 /s/ Harris, et al

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