

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 H4/4/03*

# 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 (C) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive  
 36 set forth in subdivision (a)(3)(A) and (a)(3)(B) of this section shall be

1 increase yearly as follows:

2 (i) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly  
3 incentive for 2003 shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000);

4 (ii) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly  
5 incentive for 2004 shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000); and

6 (iii) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly  
7 incentive for 2005 and each year thereafter shall be five thousand dollars  
8 (\$5,000).

9 (D) The increased incentive bonuses provided in  
10 ~~subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section~~ this act of 2003 shall not be  
11 retroactive, and no obligations shall accumulate for school years in which  
12 sufficient funds are not appropriated or available.

13 (E) No person shall receive a starting bonus and a yearly  
14 incentive for the same school year.

15 (F) No person shall receive either a starting incentive  
16 bonus or a yearly incentive bonus, irrespective of the person's past  
17 participation in the national board's certification as either a teacher, a  
18 building-level principal, or a building-level assistant principal if the  
19 person:

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

22 (ii) Becomes employed as a district-level central  
23 office administrator;

24 (iii) Is employed by an Arkansas institution of  
25 higher education; or

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

28 (G) At the time that the national board establishes a  
29 national board certification for school administrators and an Arkansas  
30 district-level central office administrator becomes national board certified,  
31 the district-level central office will be eligible to receive incentive  
32 bonuses in the amount awarded to national board certified teachers for every  
33 year for the life of the national board's administrator certificate.

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

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

10 (2) If the teacher, principal, or assistant principal leaves the  
11 employment of a public school district before the two (2) continuous years  
12 are completed and is employed by an Arkansas institution of higher education  
13 or employed by an education service cooperative and the teacher does not  
14 teach in a classroom with students, the teacher, principal, or assistant  
15 principal shall repay the department the amount it contributed to the  
16 national board's participation fee and the total amount it contributed to any  
17 yearly salary bonus.

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

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

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

30 /s/ Harris, et al  
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