

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/97

# A Bill

ACT 1225 OF 1997  
HOUSE BILL 1975

5 By: Representative Choate  
6 By: Senator Argue  
7  
8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9  
10 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR NATIONAL BOARD  
11 CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."  
12

### Subtitle

13  
14 "TO PROVIDE FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR  
15 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION OF  
16 TEACHERS."  
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
21 ("NBPTS") was established in 1987 as an independent nonprofit organization to  
22 establish high and rigorous standards for teachers; to develop and operate a  
23 national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these  
24 standards; and advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving  
25 student learning in the United States. In order to apply for the NBPTS  
26 certification process, the NBPTS requires teachers to have three (3) years or  
27 more of teaching experience, to have graduated from an accredited college or  
28 university, and to possess a valid state teaching license. A teacher may  
29 become NBPTS certified by successfully completing a year-long certification  
30 process in which the teacher must develop a portfolio of student work and  
31 videotapes of teaching and learning activities for NBPTS review, participate  
32 in the NBPTS assessment center simulation exercises, and successfully pass an  
33 examination testing content knowledge.  
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35 SECTION 2. (a) The State Department of Education shall pay one-half  
36 (1/2) of the NBPTS participation fee and provide, if determined to be

1 necessary by the State Department of Education, substitute pay for a maximum  
2 of three (3) days of approved paid leave for teachers participating in the  
3 NBPTS program. A teacher shall have completed at least three (3) years  
4 teaching in the Arkansas public school system before applying for NBPTS  
5 assistance under this act, and shall not have previously received state  
6 funding for participation in any certification area in the NBPTS program.

7 (b) A teacher who receives state moneys for the NBPTS participation  
8 fee, but who does not complete the certification process or who becomes  
9 certified but does not teach in the Arkansas public school system for two (2)  
10 continuous school years after receiving the NBPTS certification, shall repay  
11 the state the amount it contributed to the NBPTS participation fee.

12 (1) Repayment of moneys contributed by the state are not required  
13 if the teacher does not complete the NBPTS certification process or does not  
14 teach in the Arkansas public school system for two (2) continuous school years  
15 after completing the certification process due to the death or disability of  
16 the teacher or other extenuating circumstances as may be recognized by the  
17 State Board of Education.

18 (c) Provisions of this act shall apply only to the extent that funds  
19 are appropriated to the Department of Education to pay for these provisions.

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21 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
22 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
23 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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25 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
26 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
27 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
28 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
29 act are declared to be severable.

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31 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
32 hereby repealed.

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/s/Rep. Choate

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APPROVED: 4-07-97