

ARKANSAS SENATE
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 245

"AN ACT TO INCREASE THE BONUS FOR TEACHERS OBTAINING THE NATIONAL
BOARD PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATION."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 245.

Amend Senate Bill No. 245 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-17-412 is amended to read as follows:

6-17-412. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

(a) For purposes of this section and § 6-17-413:

(1) "Classroom teacher" means an individual who is required to hold a teaching license from the Department of Education and who is engaged directly in instruction with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy percent (70%) of the individual's contracted time;

(2) "National board" means the National Board for Professional Teaching Standard;

(3) "Starting bonus" means a one-time bonus given during the school year in which an individual first obtains national board certification; and

(4) "Yearly bonus" means a bonus that is given once every school year following the year of initial certification.

(b) The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was established in 1987 as an independent nonprofit organization to establish high and rigorous standards for teachers, to develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards; and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in the United States. In order to apply for the ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board certification process, the ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board requires teachers to have three (3) years or more of teaching experience, to have graduated from an accredited college or university, and to possess a valid state teaching license. A teacher may become ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board certified by successfully completing a year-long certification process in which the teacher must develop a portfolio of student work and videotapes of teaching and learning activities for ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board review,

participate in the ~~NBPTS~~ national board assessment center simulation exercises, and successfully pass an examination testing content knowledge.

(c)(1) The State Board of Education is authorized to issue a standard Arkansas teaching certificate to any teacher, building-level principal, or building level assistant principal trained in and certified by a state other than Arkansas who seeks Arkansas certification and who has received national board certification from the national board while teaching in a state other than Arkansas.

(2) Any applicant meeting this description seeking initial certification in Arkansas who seeks employment as an Arkansas teacher, building-level principal, or building level assistant principal shall not have to comply with §§ 6-17-402 or 6-17-403, but shall comply with § 6-17-410.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-17-413 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

(2) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the selection process of teacher participants in the national board's program. The number of teacher participants each year will be determined by the amount of funding available for the program.

(3)(A) The department shall pay ~~any selected teacher participant who successfully completes the national board's certification process and receives the national board's certification, and is employed in a local public school district~~ an starting incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon receiving the national board's certification and a yearly incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for every school year for the life of the national board's certificate; ~~provided, also, those teachers who began participating in the national board's program on and after August 1, 1997, shall be eligible for payment of this bonus upon receipt of the national board's certification.~~ to any classroom teacher, building level principal, or building level assistant principal who:

(i) Is selected by the State Board of Education to participate in the national board's program;

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

(iii) Receives national board certification; and

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

(B) Any nationally board-certified teacher who moves into

the state and teaches is employed full-time as a classroom teacher, building level principal, or building level assistant principal in a an Arkansas public school district shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for every school year the person is employed full-time as a classroom teacher, building level principal, or building level assistant principal in a local public school district for the life of the national board's certificate.

(C) The Department of Education shall pay increased incentive bonuses each school year that sufficient funds have been appropriated and are available for paying the increased bonuses, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to establish a support program for teachers selected to participate in the national board's program.

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

to any yearly bonus.

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

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

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

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

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Mahony

KAS/TRB

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Secretary