

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

A Bill

SENATE BILL 261

4
5 By: Senators Russ, D. Malone, Argue, Brown, Gwatney, Fitch, Hill, Mahony, Everett, Wooldridge,
6 Kennedy, Beebe, Harriman
7 By: Representative Broadway

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 "AN ACT AMENDING ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED § 6-17-413 TO
11 ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND COMPLETE THE
12 NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
13 (NBPTS) CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY AUTHORIZING THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PAY FULL TUITION AND
15 INCENTIVE BONUSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

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18 "TO ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN
19 AND COMPLETE NBPTS CERTIFICATION BY
20 AUTHORIZING THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION TO
21 PAY FULL TUITION AND INCENTIVE BONUSES."

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-17-413 is amended to read as follows:

28 "6-17-413. NBPTS certification funding.

29 (a) (1) The ~~State~~ Department of Education shall pay ~~one-half (1/2)~~ the
30 full amount of the NBPTS participation fee and provide, if determined to be
31 necessary by the ~~State~~ Department of Education, substitute pay for a maximum
32 of three (3) days of approved paid leave for teachers participating in the
33 NBPTS program. A teacher shall have completed at least three (3) years
34 teaching in the Arkansas public school system before applying for NBPTS
35 assistance under this section and § 6-17-412, and shall not have previously
36 received state funding for participation in any certification area in the

1 NBPTS program.

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

6 (3) The Department of Education shall pay any selected teacher
 7 participant who successfully completes the national board certification
 8 process and receives NBPTS certification and is employed in a local public
 9 school district an incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon
 10 receiving the NBPTS certification and a two thousand dollar (\$2,000) bonus for
 11 every year for the life of the NBPTS certificate; provided, also, that those
 12 teachers who began participating in the NBPTS program on and after August 1,
 13 1997, shall be eligible for payment of this bonus upon receipt of NBPTS
 14 certification. Any nationally board certified teacher who moves into the
 15 state and teaches in a public school district shall be eligible for the two
 16 thousand dollar (\$2,000) bonus for every year for the life of the NBPTS
 17 certificate.

18 (4) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate
 19 rules and regulations to establish a support program for teachers selected to
 20 participate in the NBPTS program.

21 (b)(1) A teacher who receives state moneys for the NBPTS participation
 22 fee, but who does not complete the certification process within three (3)
 23 years after the teacher's entry into the NBPTS certification program or who
 24 becomes NBPTS certified but does not teach in the Arkansas public school
 25 system for two (2) continuous school years after receiving the NBPTS
 26 certification, shall repay the state Department of Education the amount it
 27 contributed to the NBPTS participation fee and the total amount it contributed
 28 to any yearly bonus.

29 ~~(1)(2) Repayment of moneys contributed by the state Department of~~
 30 ~~Education are not required if, due to the death or disability of the teacher~~
 31 ~~or other extenuating circumstances as may be recognized by the State Board of~~
 32 ~~Education, the teacher does not complete the NBPTS certification process or~~
 33 ~~does not teach in the Arkansas public school system for two (2) continuous~~
 34 ~~school years after completing the NBPTS certification process due to the death~~
 35 ~~or disability of the teacher or other extenuating circumstances as may be~~
 36 ~~recognized by the State Board of Education.~~

1 (c) Provisions of this section and § 6-17-412 shall apply only to the
2 extent that funds are appropriated to the Department of Education to pay for
3 these provisions."
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5 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
6 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
7 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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9 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
10 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
11 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
12 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
13 act are declared to be severable.
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15 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
16 hereby repealed.
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