

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 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S3/5/01
A Bill

SENATE BILL 245

5 By: Senator Mahony
6
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE BONUS FOR
15 TEACHERS OBTAINING THE NATIONAL BOARD
16 PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATION.
17

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-17-412 is amended to read as follows:*
22 *6-17-412. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*
23 *certification.*

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

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

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

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

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

36 *(b) The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was*

1 established in 1987 as an independent nonprofit organization to establish high
 2 and rigorous standards for teachers, to develop and operate a national
 3 voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards; and
 4 to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student
 5 learning in the United States. In order to apply for the ~~National Board for~~
 6 ~~Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board certification process, the
 7 ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board requires
 8 teachers to have three (3) years or more of teaching experience, to have
 9 graduated from an accredited college or university, and to possess a valid
 10 state teaching license. A teacher may become ~~National Board for Professional~~
 11 ~~Teaching Standards~~ national board certified by successfully completing a year-
 12 long certification process in which the teacher must develop a portfolio of
 13 student work and videotapes of teaching and learning activities for ~~National~~
 14 ~~Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ national board review, participate
 15 in the ~~NBPTS~~ national board assessment center simulation exercises, and
 16 successfully pass an examination testing content knowledge.

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

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

27
 28 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-17-413 is amended to read as follows:

29 6-17-413. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
 30 certification funding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (iii) Receives national board certification; and

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

29 (B) Any nationally board-certified teacher who moves into
 30 the state and ~~teaches~~ is employed full-time as a classroom teacher, building
 31 level principal, or building level assistant principal in a an Arkansas public
 32 school district shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of two
 33 thousand dollars (\$2,000) for every school year the person is employed full-
 34 time as a classroom teacher, building level principal, or building level
 35 assistant principal in a local public school district for the life of the
 36 national board's certificate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (4) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate
36 rules and regulations to establish a support program for teachers selected to

1 participate in the national board's program.

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

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

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

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

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

33 /s/ Mahony
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