

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/16/17 H3/27/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 555

5 By: Senator A. Clark
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO TARGET AND ENHANCE INCENTIVE BONUSSES FOR
9 TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS WHO OBTAIN
10 NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
11 CERTIFICATION; TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND
12 CODIFY THE AMOUNT OF INCENTIVE BONUSSES FOR CURRENT
13 RECIPIENTS; TO REPEAL UNFUNDED INCENTIVE BONUSSES; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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18 TO MODIFY INCENTIVE BONUSSES FOR NATIONAL
19 BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
20 CERTIFICATION.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-17-
26 413(a)(3)(A) and § 6-17-413(a)(3)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning National Board for
27 Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (3)(A) The department shall pay a ~~starting incentive bonus of~~
30 ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon receiving the certification of the~~
31 ~~national board and a yearly incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~
32 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every no more than ten (10) school year
33 years or, in the case of a recertification obtained before January 1, 2018,
34 for the life of the recertification for the life of the certificate of the
35 ~~national board~~ to any classroom teacher, building-level principal, or
36 building-level assistant principal who:



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

3 (ii) Successfully completes the certification
4 process of the national board;

5 (iii) Receives Has begun the certification process
6 or has received certification or recertification of the national board before
7 January 1, 2018; and
8

9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(a)(3)(B) and (C), concerning
10 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (B)(i) A teacher certified by the national board who moves
13 into the state on or before January 1, 2017 and is employed full time as a
14 classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant
15 principal in an Arkansas public school district shall be eligible for the
16 yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school
17 year the person is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level
18 principal, or building-level assistant principal in a local public school
19 district ~~for the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than
20 ten (10) school years.

21 (ii) A teacher who holds national board
22 certification on or after August 1, 2009, who moves into the state on or
23 before January 1, 2017, shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of
24 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school year the teacher is employed
25 full time ~~for the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than
26 ten (10) school years if, after working for three (3) years with national
27 board certification as a classroom teacher, building-level principal, or
28 building-level assistant principal in a public school district in this state,
29 the teacher is employed as a teacher in an accredited teacher preparation
30 program at a state-supported institution of higher education if funds are
31 available after payments are made to those eligible under subdivisions
32 (a)(3)(A)(iv)(a) and (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section.

33 (C) ~~The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive~~
34 ~~set forth in subdivisions (a)(3)(A) and (B) of this section shall increase~~
35 ~~yearly as follows:~~

36 ~~(i) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly~~

1 ~~incentive for 2003 shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000);~~

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

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

7
 8 *SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413, concerning bonus funding for*
 9 *educators with a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*
 10 *certification, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:*

11 *(e)(1) The department shall pay a yearly incentive bonus to a person*
 12 *who:*

13 *(A) On or after January 1, 2018, began the certification*
 14 *process and received national board certification; and*

15 *(B) At the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-*
 16 *time in a public school, including an open-enrollment public charter school,*
 17 *as a:*

18 *(i) Classroom teacher;*

19 *(ii) Instructional facilitator; or*

20 *(iii) Instructional leader.*

21 *(2) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be:*

22 *(A) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for a*
 23 *person who at the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a*
 24 *public school, including an open-enrollment public charter school, that is*
 25 *not a high-poverty school or a high-poverty charter school;*

26 *(B) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a person who at the*
 27 *time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a high-poverty school*
 28 *that is not in a high-poverty district; or*

29 *(C) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a person who at the*
 30 *time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a:*

31 *(i) High-poverty school in a high-poverty district;*

32 *or*

33 *(ii) High-poverty charter school.*

34 *(3) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be*
 35 *limited as follows:*

36 *(A) A person shall not receive a two thousand five hundred*

1 dollar (\$2,500) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section in more
2 than five (5) school years;

3 (B) A person shall not receive a five thousand dollar
4 (\$5,000) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(B) of this section in more than five
5 (5) school years;

6 (C) A person shall not receive a ten thousand dollar
7 (\$10,000) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(C) of this section in more than ten
8 (10) school years;

9 (D) A person shall not receive any yearly incentive bonus
10 under this subsection in more than ten (10) school years;

11 (E) A person shall not receive in the same school year
12 more than one (1) yearly incentive bonus under subdivision (e)(2) of this
13 section; and

14 (F)(i) A person shall not receive in the same school year
15 both a bonus under this subsection and a bonus under subsection (a) of this
16 section.

17 (ii) A person who, as of December 1, 2017, meets the
18 qualifications for a yearly incentive bonus under both this subsection and
19 subsection (a) of this section may make an irrevocable election to receive
20 future yearly incentive bonuses under this subsection by filing a written
21 election with the department no later than July 1, 2019.

22 (f) As used in this section:

23 (1) "High-poverty charter school" means an Arkansas open-
24 enrollment public charter school in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of
25 the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch
26 students as defined in § 6-20-2303;

27 (2) "High-poverty district" means an Arkansas public school
28 district in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school
29 year's enrolled students are national school lunch students as defined in §
30 6-20-2303;

31 (3) "High-poverty school" means an Arkansas public school in
32 which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled
33 students are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303; and

34 (4)(A) "Instructional leader" means a building-level
35 administrator who is responsible for evaluating teachers or instructional
36 staff.

1 (B) “Instructional leader” includes without limitation a
2 building-level administrator who is an evaluator as defined in § 6-17-2803.

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