

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
 Revised

Senate Bill 273 (Senator Pinsky. *et al.*)

Econ. & Environmental Affairs and Budget & Taxation

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State and Local Aid Program for Certification of Teachers - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

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This bill continues the State and Local Aid Pilot Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards by extending its June 1, 2000 sunset date until May 30, 2004. The maximum number of teachers that can participate in the program increases from 48 to 300.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$409,200 in FY 2000, assuming the maximum number of teachers participate in the program. The FY 2000 State budget includes \$158,000 for 118 participants. Future year expenditures reflect inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	409,200	484,600	487,600	490,700	493,900
Net Effect	(\$409,200)	(\$484,600)	(\$487,600)	(\$490,700)	(\$493,900)

Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures would increase by a maximum of \$166,300 in FY 2000. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill expands the existing mandate that local school boards must provide one-third of the certification costs.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** Legislation enacted in 1997 established a State and Local Aid Pilot Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must select up to 48 teachers to participate in the pilot program annually. The cost of the teacher certification fee charged by the national board is shared by the State and local school systems with the State paying two-thirds of the cost. Pursuant to this bill, a maximum of 300 teachers can participate in the program annually. This could increase State expenditures for certification fees by \$337,680 in fiscal 2000 and \$402,000 annually until fiscal 2004, when the bill sunsets. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards charges a \$2,000 certification fee per teacher;
- 252 additional teachers are eligible to participate in the program in fiscal 2000 and 300 teachers in each following year; and
- the State is required to pay two-thirds of the costs.

In addition, administrative expenditures for MSDE could increase by an estimated \$71,500 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one staff specialist and one office secretary to administer the program. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

In sum, State expenditures would increase by \$409,200 in fiscal 2000 and \$493,900 in fiscal 2004. Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. The fiscal 2000 State budget includes \$158,000 for 118 participants.

**Local Effect:** The local cost (one-third of the certification fee) for the program would total a maximum of \$166,320 in fiscal 2000 and \$198,000 annually until fiscal 2004, when the bill sunsets. In addition, local school systems may have to provide several days of paid administrative leave for teachers participating in the certification process.

**Additional Comments:** It takes approximately one year to complete the certification requirements and around 75% of the teachers seeking national certification receive it. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) estimates that by fiscal 2000, 43 teachers will be certified.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Maryland State Department of Education

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 1999  
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