

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 94 (Delegate Boschert)
 Ways and Means

Education - Teachers - Second Career Teacher Certification Program

This bill establishes a second career teacher certification program. The purpose of the program is to aid local boards of education that are experiencing teacher shortages by providing a certification course for retired professionals who want to reenter the workforce as teachers. To be eligible for the certification course, an individual must hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education and must have ten years work experience in a position that requires an undergraduate degree. Upon completion of the six-week certification course and any other requirements the State Superintendent of Schools deems appropriate, the applicant receives a standard professional certificate. The Maryland State Department of Education must adopt the regulations necessary to implement the certification program.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$79,300 in FY 2002 due to staffing costs associated with implementing and operating the new certification program. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, salary increases, and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	79,300	97,300	102,600	108,300	114,300
Net Effect	(\$79,300)	(\$97,300)	(\$102,600)	(\$108,300)	(\$114,300)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Any reduction in the effort required to obtain qualified teachers would not materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no second career teacher certification program. If retired professionals want to reenter the workforce as teachers, they have to take regular college courses as required to obtain the desired certification.

Background: *The Maryland Teacher Staffing Report, 2000 – 2002* noted that the State Board of Education projected a shortage of certified teachers for all 24 of Maryland’s school systems. The board also acknowledged a shortage of male teachers and minority teachers and recognized several fields – including art, computer science, mathematics, science, and special education – as critical shortage areas. To combat the problem, the State has launched several incentive programs over the last couple of years in an attempt to recruit and retain quality teachers for Maryland’s public schools. The incentive programs include a low-interest mortgage program for teachers, stipends for teachers who earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or who agree to teach in challenging schools, signing bonuses for teachers who graduated in the top 10% of their class, tuition tax credits for teachers who attend graduate school, exemption from earnings limitations for retired teachers reemployed in schools, teacher mentoring, and scholarship opportunities for college students pursuing degrees in teaching and agreeing to teach in Maryland public schools upon graduation.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$79,289 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for a 120-day start-up delay period and the bill’s June 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one staff specialist to develop, implement, and oversee the certification program and one secretary to provide office support for the specialist. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs for office equipment, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$69,443
Operating Expenses	<u>9,846</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$79,289

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

It is assumed that institutions of higher education would be contracted to provide the certification course and that certification applicants would pay the cost of tuition.

The Maryland State Department of Education could adopt regulations to implement the certification program with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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