

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 129 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

**Education - Teachers - Aid for Certification Program**

This bill increases from 300 to 500 the maximum number of teachers that the State Board of Education may select to pursue national certification under the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$38,400 in FY 2003 due to increased program participation. Future year expenditures reflect an estimated annual increase of 25 teacher participants. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	38,400	76,700	115,100	153,400
Net Effect	\$0	(\$38,400)	(\$76,700)	(\$115,100)	(\$153,400)

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

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures would increase by \$766 for each teacher over the current limit of 300 who is selected to pursue national certification. If 325 teachers participate in the program in FY 2003, local school expenditures would increase by \$19,200.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** Each school year, the State Board of Education must select, consistent with the amount provided in the State budget for the program, a maximum of 300 teachers to participate in the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Under the program, the State board pays two-thirds of the cost of the certification fee charged by NBPTS and the local board of education pays one-third of the cost. A teacher who does not complete all of the requirements for assessment by the national board must pay back the certification fee.

**Background:** NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a mission “to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.” Its goal is to strengthen teaching and improve student learning through “five core propositions:”

- teachers are committed to students and their learning;
- teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
- teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
- teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
- teachers are members of learning communities.

**State Expenditures:** NBPTS charges a \$2,300 certification fee per teacher. Through the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) pays two-thirds of the fee or \$1,534. The local school system must pay the remaining amount.

In fiscal 2000, just over 50 Maryland public school teachers completed the requirements for certification assessment, and 41 actually achieved certification from NBPTS. During the current school year, 157 Maryland teachers have qualified for stipends under the program and are working towards national certification. The Governor’s proposed fiscal 2002 budget includes funds to pay the certification fees for up to 300 teachers. It is estimated that the program will attract 325 participants in fiscal 2003 and an additional 25 teachers in each fiscal year thereafter. Accordingly, general fund expenditures would increase by \$38,400 in fiscal 2003. If 500 teachers participate in the program in any given year, general fund expenditures would increase by a total of \$306,800.

The State provides a \$2,000 annual salary enhancement to teachers who successfully complete NBPTS certification. If this bill results in more nationally certified teachers, general fund expenditures for the State salary enhancement would also increase.

**Local Expenditures:** Local boards of education pay one-third of the NBPTS certification fee, or \$766. If 325 teachers participate in the program in fiscal 2003, local school expenditures would increase by \$19,200. If all 500 awards are made, expenditures by local boards of education would increase by \$153,200.

Several local school systems have incentives for teachers who achieve national certification. If more teachers are certified, local boards of education will also incur costs to provide the incentives. **Exhibit 1** shows the school systems that employ local incentives and describes the incentives in each of those systems.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 6, 2001  
ncs/hlb Revised – Enrolled Bill – May 2, 2001

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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

**Exhibit 1**  
**Local Incentives for National Teacher Certification**  
**As of April, 2000**

<b><u>School System</u></b>	<b><u>Incentive</u></b>
Allegany	\$1,500 per year
Baltimore County	\$2,000 per year
Calvert	\$1,000 per year
Carroll	\$1,000 per year
Cecil	\$1,000 per year (subject to availability of funds in the budget)
Charles	\$2,500 per year
Dorchester	\$2,000 one-time bonus with summer assignment for each of two summers
Frederick	\$1,000 per year
Harford	\$1,000 one-time bonus
Howard	\$2,000 per year
Kent	\$1,000 for FY 2002, \$1,500 for FY 2003, and \$2,000 thereafter
Montgomery	\$2,000 per year
Prince George's	\$2,000 per year plus \$1,000 one-time bonus
Queen Anne's	\$1,500 per year (must be teaching in area of certificate)
Somerset	Planning a \$1,000 one-time bonus
St. Mary's	\$1,000 per year
Washington	\$2,000 per year
Wicomico	\$2,000 per year
Worcester	\$2,000 per year

Source: Maryland State Department of Education