

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 1

(Senator Pinsky)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Teachers - State and Local Aid Program for Certification

This emergency bill extends for four years the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The program's termination date is set for May 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures and special fund revenues for national board certification fees would be maintained through FY 2008. The FY 2005 budget includes \$404,600 for payment of certification fees and assumes \$100,000 in special fund revenues from local reimbursement of the fees. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures for board certification would continue through FY 2008. Local revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is due to terminate May 31, 2004. The program pays the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification fee of teachers who are selected to participate in the program. The State is required to pay two-thirds of the certification fee, and the local school system that employs the selected teacher is

required to pay one-third. Up to 500 teachers per year may be selected to participate in the program.

Background: The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was created in 1987 in response to recommendations of the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy's Task Force on Teaching as a Profession. The task force's report, *A Nation Prepared: Teacher's for the 21st Century*, focused on the central role of teachers in improving education in America. The policy position of the national board states that teachers should be identified and awarded for demonstrating the board's 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.

The State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was established by Chapter 179 of 1997 as a pilot program and was set to terminate after three years. Chapter 536 of 1999 extended the program through May 2004. As of July 1, 2003, 203 teachers in Maryland had been certified by the national board through their participation in this program.

State Fiscal Effect: The national board certification fee is \$2,300 per teacher with the State share at \$1,534 and the local share at \$766. Assuming the maximum 500 teachers participate in the program, State general fund expenditures would total \$1.15 million annually and special fund revenues from local school systems (for repayment of one-third of the certification fee) would total \$383,000, resulting in a net State cost of \$767,000. The limit of 500 teachers per year has not been reached over the first seven years of the program.

The fiscal 2005 State budget includes \$404,617 for initial payments of the \$2,300 national board certification fee, enough for 175 teachers to participate in the program. The budget also assumes \$100,000 in special fund revenues associated with reimbursements from local school systems for one-third of the certification costs.

Local Expenditures: If 500 teachers were chosen to participate in the program each year, local school expenditures would total \$383,000 annually. This amount would be allocated among the local school systems in proportion to the number of teachers in each

system approved for participation. The limit of 500 teachers per year has not been reached over the first seven years of the program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2004
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 2004

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510