

CHAPTER 387

(House Bill 274)

AN ACT concerning

Study Commission to Explore the Expanded Application of State Stipends for National Certification of Teachers

FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Commission to Explore the Expanded Application of State Stipends for National Certification of Teachers; providing for the membership of the Study Commission; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Study Commission; requiring the State Department of Education to provide staff for the Study Commission; providing that a member of the Study Commission may not receive compensation but is entitled to certain reimbursement; requiring the Study Commission to assess the rigor of national certification for certain occupations and determine how these national certifications compare to national teacher certification and make certain recommendations; requiring the Study Commission to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the expanded application of State stipends for national certification of teachers.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 6–306(a) and (b)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

6–306.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “County grant for national certification” means an annual grant distributed to a teacher certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards established:

- (i) Outside of the collective bargaining process; or
- (ii) As part of a collective bargaining agreement with the local employee organization.

(3) “School-based employee” means a certificated employee who works directly with students or teachers at a public school.

(b) (2) A classroom teacher or other nonadministrative school-based employee who holds a standard professional certificate or an advanced professional certificate who is employed by a county board and who holds a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall receive a stipend from the State in an amount equal to the county grant for national certification, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per qualified individual.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) There is a Study Commission to Explore the Expanded Application of State Stipends for National Certification of Teachers under § 6-306(b)(2) of the Education Article.

(b) The Study Commission consists of the following members:

- (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent’s designee; and
- (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
 - (i) one individual who holds a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(ii) one representative of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(iii) two local superintendents;

(iv) two representatives of local school systems that employ individuals who hold a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(v) one representative from a private Maryland university that has a program of teacher education; and

(vi) one representative from a public Maryland university that has a program of teacher education.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Study Commission.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Study Commission.

(e) A member of the Study Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Study Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Study Commission shall:

(1) assess the rigor of national certification for speech–language pathologists, occupational therapists, *school* psychologists, physical therapists, school counselors, and others to determine how each of these national certifications compares to national teacher certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(2) invite academic experts to submit testimony; and

(3) make recommendations regarding whether the stipends awarded to teachers and other school–based employees under § 6–306(b)(2) of the Education Article should be expanded to include speech–language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, *school* psychologists, school counselors, or others.

(g) On or before December 31, 2007, the Study Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.