

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 58 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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

This bill establishes a study commission to assess the rigor of national certification for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, school psychologists, physical therapists, school counselors, and other school system personnel, as compared to national teacher certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). By December 31, 2007, the commission must submit its findings and recommendations regarding the expansion of eligibility for the national certification stipends currently provided to teachers and nonadministrative school-based personnel who hold certification from NBPTS. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff support for the commission.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007 and sunsets May 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$38,000 in FY 2008 to fund the study commission. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	38,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$38,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Local officials appointed to the study commission could participate with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Teachers and other nonadministrative school-based employees who hold NBPTS certification receive annual stipends from the State that are equal to national certification stipends provided by the school systems in which they work, up to a maximum State amount of \$2,000 per year. Other school system employees do not qualify for the State stipends.

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.” Obtaining NBPTS certification requires teachers pursuing the certification to develop comprehensive portfolios of their work and accomplishments and often takes one to three years to complete. NBPTS certification is good for 10 years. For teachers who achieve national board certification, the State matches local stipends provided to the teachers, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per teacher per year. There have been proposals in recent years to extend eligibility for the State stipends to other, nonteaching school system personnel who are subject to national certification in their fields.

In the 2004-2005 school year, 574 teachers received State stipends totaling \$1.1 million because they held NBPTS certification. The number of teachers and amount of the stipends in each school system are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1 State Stipends for Nationally Certified Teachers 2004-2005

<u>School System</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>School System</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Allegany	16	\$28,096	Harford	9	\$18,000
Anne Arundel	72	144,000	Howard	23	34,500
Baltimore City	22	44,000	Kent	1	2,000
Baltimore	52	104,000	Montgomery	206	412,000
Calvert	7	14,000	Prince George’s	47	94,000
Caroline	3	6,000	Queen Anne’s	8	16,000
Carroll	3	6,000	St. Mary’s	11	22,000
Cecil	17	34,000	Somerset	0	0

<u>School System</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>School System</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Charles	15	30,000	Talbot	3	6,000
Dorchester	2	4,000	Washington	12	24,000
Frederick	23	23,000	Wicomico	12	24,000
Garrett	3	1,500	Worcester	7	14,000

Source: *Maryland Teacher Staffing Report, 2006-2008*; Maryland State Department of Education

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$38,049 in fiscal 2008, which assumes that a full-time contractual education program specialist would be hired for six months beginning July 1, 2007. The specialist would coordinate the activities of the commission and research national certification standards for nonteaching school employees. The estimate includes a six-month salary and contractual fringe benefits, as well as travel and operating expenses associated with the study commission. The commission sunsets May 31, 2008, so no costs would be incurred after fiscal 2008.

Contractual Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$30,294
Travel and Operating Expenses	<u>7,755</u>
Total FY 2008 State Expenditures	\$38,049

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 30, 2007
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