

HB 440

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly 2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Education - Teachers - National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program

This emergency bill maintains the National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program until 2014, with a minor change that requires that a staff development teacher at an eligible school be National Board Certified (NBC), rather than only giving preference to an NBC teacher in employing a staff development teacher. In addition, the State is required to include the funding of the National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program as part of the State's application for federal Race to the Top funding.

The pilot program terminates July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can include the funding of the National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program as part of the State's application for Race to the Top funding using existing resources; however, any funding provided for these initiatives may take away funding from other priorities in the application. The Governor's proposed FY 2011 budget includes \$320,000 in general funds for the pilot program. To the extent general fund expenditures for the pilot program are replaced with federal funds, general fund expenditures decrease. Maryland is eligible to receive up to \$250 million in federal Race to the Top funds.

Local Effect: Local school system revenues and expenditures increase or decrease to the extent the funding for the pilot program is different than would have been appropriated for the program under current law.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 434 of 2006 established the National Board Certified Teacher Pilot Program and required the Governor to include \$320,000 for the program in the fiscal 2008 to 2010 State budgets. Title I schools and schools identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under the State's school accountability program were eligible to participate in the program. In consultation with the local board of education, the State Superintendent of Schools was required to select five eligible schools in three local school systems to participate in the program for three years.

Under current law, to be eligible to participate in the program, a school must employ at least three teachers who have agreed to pursue national board certification and have signed a letter of intent to teach at the school for at least three years. Each participating school may be reimbursed up to \$62,000 per year by the State for the cost of employing one staff development teacher at the school. The local board of education must give preference to an NBC teacher in employing a staff development teacher at a participating school. The three candidates for national board certification employed by the school must be in the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

MSDE was required to adopt regulations to implement the pilot program and report annually on the effectiveness of the program from 2008 to 2010; however, the pilot program has no termination date or further funding requirements. The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2011 maintains \$320,000 for the pilot program.

MSDE reports that five schools were involved in the pilot program: one in Baltimore City, one in Dorchester County, and three in Prince George's County. At those five schools, 22 teachers agreed to pursue national board certification, 18 of whom submitted their applications. Another 9 teachers submitted portfolios for Take One, which can be the first step to becoming national board certified.

Race to the Top is a \$4 billion competitive grant program authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The program seeks to encourage and reward states that are implementing significant reforms around four specific areas:

- adopting *standards and assessments* that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- building *data systems* that measure student growth and success and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;

- recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining *effective teachers and principals*, especially where they are needed most; and
- turning around the *lowest-achieving schools*.

Based on the four reform areas, the Race to the Top scoring rubric includes 19 criteria and one competitive priority that collectively add up to 500 points. Several of these criteria account for a large number of points; others account for a comparatively small portion of a state's score. In addition, there are four invitational priorities that states are invited to address in their application, but they will not receive any additional points for doing so. Using these criteria, the U.S. Secretary of Education will determine which states receive grants and the amounts of the grants.

Maryland is eligible for up to \$250 million of Race to the Top funds. Round 1 applications were due in January 2010. Maryland decided to apply in Round 2 in order to strengthen its application, which is due in June 2010. In accordance with ARRA, the U.S. Department of Education will obligate all funds to states by September 30, 2010. States will then have a four-year project period from the time of the award in which to implement their plans and spend their grant money. At least 50% of the total grant a state receives must be distributed to local school systems. Local school systems and local teachers' union leaders must commit to implementing a state's plan in order to receive grant funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 453 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Allegany, Harford, and Talbot counties; Department of Legislative Services

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