

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 926

(Senator Pinsky)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

**Education - State and Local Aid Program for Certification or Renewal of
Certification - Sunset Repeal**

This bill repeals the June 30, 2013 termination of the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures and special fund revenues would be maintained for national board certification beyond FY 2013. The proposed FY 2014 State budget includes \$1,040,000 in general fund expenditures for board certification and related special fund revenues are assumed to total approximately \$600,000. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures for board certification would continue beyond FY 2013, and total approximately \$600,000 annually. 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 scheduled to terminate June 30, 2013. The program pays the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) 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 1,000 teachers per year may be selected to participate in the program. Both teachers seeking initial certification and teachers seeking renewal of certification are eligible for the program. The State Board of Education is authorized to fund up to one retake of an unsuccessful entry on the NBPTS assessment.

Background: NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member Board of Directors comprised primarily of classroom teachers. The NBPTS mission is “to advance student learning and achievement by establishing the definitive standards and systems for certifying accomplished educators, providing programs and advocating policies that support excellence in teaching and leading, and engaging National Board certified teachers and leaders in that process.” NBPTS standards are based upon 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 initial NBPTS certification fee is \$2,500, the certification renewal fee is \$1,250, and the fee for a retake of an NBPTS entry is \$350. NBPTS reports that there are more than 100,000 nationally certified teachers in the United States; with over 2,400 working in Maryland.

State Fiscal Effect: The Governor’s proposed fiscal 2014 budget includes \$1,040,000 for up-front payments of program costs. The Department of Legislative Services assumes that the budget will be amended to include \$600,000 in special fund revenues associated with the reimbursements for one-third of the certification costs from local school systems.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local school expenditures totaling approximately \$600,000 annually will continue to be allocated among the local school systems in proportion to the number of teachers in each local school system approved for participation.

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 - March 13, 2013
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