

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 210**

4 (By Senators Wells, Browning, Foster, Stollings and Plymale)

5 _____
6 [Originating in the Committee on Education;
7 reported February 18, 2011.]

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11 A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia,
12 1931, as amended, relating to reimbursement of tuition,
13 registration and other required fees for course work completed
14 by teachers; limiting reimbursement depending on grade earned;
15 and placing certain limits on number of courses per teacher
16 eligible within certain time period and lifetime.

17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18 That §18A-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
19 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

20 **ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL**
21 **DEVELOPMENT.**

22 **§18A-3-3a. Payment of tuition, registration and other fees for**
23 **teachers; maximum payment per teacher.**

24 (a) The West Virginia Department of Education shall promulgate
25 rules to administer the reimbursement of tuition, registration and

1 other required fees for course work completed by teachers in
2 accordance with the provisions of this section. The rules shall
3 provide for reimbursement for courses completed toward both
4 certification renewal and additional endorsement in a shortage
5 area.

6 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
7 have the meanings ascribed to them:

8 (1) "Teacher" has the meaning provided in section one, article
9 one, chapter eighteen of this code.

10 (2) "Shortage area" shall be defined by state board policy to
11 indicate the subject areas for which an insufficient number of
12 teachers are available.

13 (3) "Certification" and "certificate" means a valid West
14 Virginia:

15 (A) Professional teaching, service or administrative
16 certificate, or its equivalent; or

17 (B) Provisional professional teaching, service or
18 administrative certificate, or its equivalent.

19 (4) "Requirements for certification renewal" are those
20 requirements of the State Department of Education as provided in
21 section three of this article.

22 (5) "Requirements for additional endorsement" are those
23 requirements of the State Department of Education as provided in
24 section three of this article.

25 (6) "State institution of higher education" has the meaning
26 provided in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this

1 code.

2 (c) To the extent of funds appropriated for the purposes
3 specified in this section, payment shall be made to any teacher
4 who:

5 (1) Holds either a valid West Virginia:

6 (A) Certificate; or

7 (B) First class permit for full-time employment; and

8 (2) Is seeking:

9 (A) An additional endorsement in a shortage area, and either
10 resides in the state or is employed regularly for instructional
11 purposes in a public school in the state; or

12 (B) Certification renewal, and has a continuing contract with
13 a county board.

14 (d) The payment shall be made as reimbursement for the
15 tuition, registration and other required fees for any course
16 completed at:

17 (1) Any college or university within the state; or

18 (2) A college or university outside the state if prior
19 approval is granted by the department.

20 (e) A course is eligible for reimbursement if it meets the
21 requirements for:

22 (1) An additional endorsement in a shortage area; or

23 (2) Certification renewal.

24 (f) If funds appropriated for the purposes specified in this
25 section are insufficient for the reimbursement of all eligible
26 courses within the limits provided in this section, the West

1 Virginia Department of Education shall make the reimbursements for
2 courses for additional endorsement in a shortage area and
3 certification renewal in a shortage area first.

4 (g) Payment made for any single fee may not exceed the amount
5 of the highest corresponding fee charged at a state institution of
6 higher education.

7 (h) Reimbursement for courses pursuant to this section shall
8 be limited in accordance with the following:

9 (1) A teacher who is seeking reimbursement for a course in
10 which he or she earned an "A" shall be reimbursed one hundred
11 percent;

12 (2) A teacher who is seeking reimbursement for a course in
13 which he or she earned a "B" shall be reimbursed ninety percent;

14 (3) A teacher who is seeking reimbursement for a course in
15 which he or she earned a "C" shall be reimbursed eighty percent;
16 and

17 (4) A teacher who is seeking reimbursement for a course in
18 which he or she earned a "D" or "F" may not be reimbursed any
19 amount.

20 ~~(h)~~ (i) Reimbursement for courses completed toward
21 certification renewal is limited to reimbursement for six semester
22 hours of courses per teacher per certification renewal period
23 subject to a lifetime maximum of fifteen semester hours of courses
24 for any teacher. Reimbursement for courses completed toward
25 additional endorsement in a shortage area is limited to fifteen
26 semester hours of courses for any teacher. Reimbursement for

1 courses completed toward certification in a shortage area is
2 limited to reimbursement for six semester hours of courses per
3 teacher per year, with no lifetime limit.

4 ~~(i)~~ (j) The West Virginia Department of Education shall seek
5 funding from sources other than general revenue appropriation,
6 including, but not limited to, workforce investment funds.

7 ~~(j)~~ (k) No provision of this section may be construed to
8 require any appropriation or any specific amount of appropriation
9 for the purposes specified in this section, or to require the
10 department to expend funds for those purposes from any other
11 amounts appropriated for expenditure by the department.