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H. B. 2329

(By Delegate Michael)
[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-4-2a of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to reimbursing teachers for
recertification fees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18A-4-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4. SALARIES, WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS.

**§18A-4-2a. State minimum salary bonus for classroom teachers with
national board certification and reimbursement for
recertification.**

(a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
rigorous standards and processes for certification by the National
Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) helps to promote
the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, classroom

1 teachers in the public schools of West Virginia should be
2 encouraged to achieve national board certification and
3 recertification through a reimbursement of expenses and an
4 additional salary bonus which reflects their additional
5 certification, to be paid in accordance with the provisions of this
6 section.

7 (b) \$3,500 shall be paid annually to each classroom teacher
8 who holds a valid certificate issued by the National Board of
9 Professional Teaching Standards for the life of the certification,
10 but in no event more than ten years for any one certification.

11 (c) The payments:

12 (1) Shall be in addition to any amounts prescribed in the
13 applicable state minimum salary schedule;

14 (2) Shall be paid in equal monthly installments; and

15 (3) Shall be considered a part of the state minimum salaries
16 for teachers.

17 (d) One-half the certification fee shall be paid for
18 reimbursement once to each teacher who enrolls in the program for
19 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
20 certification and one-half the certification fee shall be paid for
21 reimbursement once to each teacher who completes the National Board
22 for Professional Teaching Standards certification. Completion
23 shall be defined as the completion of ten scorable entries, as
24 verified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

1 Teachers who achieve National Board for Professional Teaching
2 Standards certification may be reimbursed a maximum of \$600 for
3 expenses actually incurred while obtaining the National Board for
4 Professional Teaching Standards certification.

5 (e) The state board shall limit the number of teachers who
6 receive the initial reimbursements of the certification fees set
7 forth in subsection (d) to two hundred teachers annually. The
8 state board shall establish selection criteria for the teachers by
9 the legislative rule required pursuant to subsection (g) of this
10 section.

11 (f) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this
12 section, funding for reimbursement of the certification fee and
13 expenses actually incurred while obtaining the National Board for
14 Professional Teaching Standards certifications shall be
15 administered by the state Department of Education from an
16 appropriation established for that purpose by the Legislature. If
17 funds appropriated by the Legislature to accomplish the purposes of
18 this subsection are insufficient, the state department shall
19 prorate the reimbursements for expenses and shall request of the
20 Legislature, at its next regular session, funds sufficient to
21 accomplish the purposes of this subsection, including needed
22 retroactive payments.

23 (g) The state board shall promulgate legislative rules
24 pursuant to article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to

1 implement the provisions of this section.

2 (h) The amount paid by teachers to apply for recertification
3 with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall
4 be reimbursed once the teacher has been recertified by the board.

NOTE: The purpose of the bill is to reimburse teachers for recertification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.