

1 **national board certification.**

2 (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
3 rigorous standards and processes for certification by the National
4 Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) helps to promote
5 the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, classroom
6 teachers in the public schools of West Virginia should be
7 encouraged to achieve and maintain national board certification
8 through a reimbursement of expenses and an additional salary bonus
9 which reflects their additional certification, to be paid in
10 accordance with the provisions of this section.

11 (b) (1) \$3,500 shall be paid annually to each classroom
12 teacher who holds a valid certificate issued by the National Board
13 of Professional Teaching Standards for the life of the
14 certification, but in no event more than ten years for any one
15 certification.

16 (2) \$3,500 shall be paid annually to each classroom teacher
17 who holds a valid renewal certificate issued by the National Board
18 of Professional Teaching Standards for the life of the renewal
19 certificate, but in no event more than ten years for any one
20 renewal certificate.

21 (c) The payments:

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

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

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

3 (d) For initial certification, one-half the certification fee
4 shall be paid for reimbursement once to each teacher who enrolls in
5 the program for the National Board for Professional Teaching
6 Standards certification and one-half the certification fee shall be
7 paid for reimbursement once to each teacher who completes the
8 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.
9 Completion shall be defined as the completion of ten scorable
10 entries, as verified by the National Board for Professional
11 Teaching Standards. Teachers who achieve National Board for
12 Professional Teaching Standards certification may be reimbursed a
13 maximum of \$600 for expenses actually incurred while obtaining the
14 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

15 (e) For renewal certification, each teacher who completes the
16 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification
17 renewal process shall be reimbursed for the renewal certification
18 fee. Completion of the certification renewal process means the
19 successful renewal of the ten-year NBPTS certification as verified
20 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

21 ~~(e)~~ (f) The state board shall limit the number of teachers who
22 ~~receive the initial reimbursements of the certification fees~~ are
23 reimbursed for the first one half of the fee for initial
24 certification, as set forth in subsection (d) of this section, to

1 two hundred teachers annually. The state board shall establish
2 selection criteria for the teachers by the legislative rule
3 required pursuant to subsection ~~(g)~~ (i) of this section.

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

16 (h) A classroom teacher who holds certification by the
17 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and accepts
18 employment as a principal, an assistant principal, or in another
19 instructional leadership position at either the school or board
20 level, shall remain eligible for the additional salary bonus for
21 NBPTS certification for the life of the certificate held.

22 ~~(g)~~ (i) The state board shall promulgate legislative rules
23 pursuant to article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to
24 implement the provisions of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of the bill is to continue the bonus eligibility of a classroom teacher who holds a valid renewal certificate issued by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards if that classroom teacher accepts employment as principal or in another school or board level instructional leadership position.

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