

H. B. 2563

(By Delegates Perry, M. Poling, Shaver,
Lawrence, Moye, Stowers, Romine and Duke)

[Introduced January 19, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**Interim
Bill**

A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to reimbursement of tuition,
registration and other required fees for course work completed
by teachers; removing priority for reimbursement for courses
for additional endorsements in shortage areas and placing
certain limits on number of courses per teacher eligible
within certain time period and lifetime.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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

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

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

(a) The West Virginia Department of Education shall promulgate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (5) "Requirements for additional endorsement" are those
24 requirements of the State Department of Education as provided in

1 section three of this article.

2 (6) "State institution of higher education" has the meaning
3 provided in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this
4 code.

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

8 (1) Holds either a valid West Virginia:

9 (A) Certificate; or

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

11 (2) Is seeking:

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

15 (B) Certification renewal, and has a continuing contract with
16 a county board.

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

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

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

23 (e) A course is eligible for reimbursement if it meets the
24 requirements for:

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

2 (2) Certification renewal.

3 ~~(f) If funds appropriated for the purposes specified in this~~
4 ~~section are insufficient for the reimbursement of all eligible~~
5 ~~courses within the limits provided in this section, the West~~
6 ~~Virginia Department of Education shall make the reimbursements for~~
7 ~~courses for additional endorsement in a shortage area and~~
8 ~~certification renewal in a shortage area first.~~

9 ~~(g)~~ (f) Payment made for any single fee may not exceed the
10 amount of the highest corresponding fee charged at a state
11 institution of higher education.

12 ~~(h)~~ (g) Reimbursement for courses completed toward
13 certification renewal is limited to reimbursement for six semester
14 hours of courses per teacher per certification renewal period
15 subject to a lifetime maximum of fifteen semester hours of courses
16 for any teacher. Reimbursement for courses completed toward
17 additional endorsement in a shortage area is limited to fifteen
18 semester hours of courses for any teacher.

19 (h) Reimbursement for courses completed toward certification
20 in a shortage area is limited to reimbursement for six semester
21 hours of courses per teacher per year, with no lifetime limit.

22 (i) The West Virginia Department of Education shall seek
23 funding from sources other than general revenue appropriation,
24 including, but not limited to, workforce investment funds.

1 (j) No provision of this section may be construed to require
2 any appropriation or any specific amount of appropriation for the
3 purposes specified in this section, or to require the department to
4 expend funds for those purposes from any other amounts appropriated
5 for expenditure by the department.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow for smoother and more equitable processing of the reimbursement of tuition, registration and other required fees for course work completed by teachers renewing their certificates or obtaining an additional endorsement in a teacher shortage area. The current priority for reimbursement for courses for additional endorsements in shortage areas is replaced with per teacher limits on the number of courses that will be reimbursed within a certain time period and total lifetime course reimbursement

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

This bill is recommended for introduction and passage during the Regular Session by the Joint Standing Committee on Education.