

# H. B. 2545

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(BY DELEGATE(S) PASDON, DUKE,  
PERRY AND MOYE)

**[BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION]**

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[Introduced February 2, 2015; referred to the  
Committee on Education then Finance.]

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A BILL to amend and reenact §18A-4-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to reimbursement of certification fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; and requiring the submission of satisfactory evidence to the West Virginia Department of Education for reimbursement.

*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.**

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

10       (b) (1) Three thousand five hundred dollars shall be paid  
11 annually to each classroom teacher who holds a valid certificate  
12 issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Stan-  
13 dards for the life of the certification, but in no event more than  
14 ten years for any one certification.

15       (2) Three thousand five hundred dollars shall be paid  
16 annually to each classroom teacher who holds a valid renewal  
17 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional

18 Teaching Standards for the life of the renewal certificate, but in  
19 no event more than ten years for any one renewal certificate.

20 (c) The payments:

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

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

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

26 (d) For initial certification, one half of the certification fee  
27 shall be paid for reimbursement once to each teacher who ~~enrolls~~  
28 submits satisfactory evidence to the West Virginia Department  
29 of Education of enrollment in the program for the National  
30 Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. ~~and~~ The  
31 remaining one half of the certification fee shall be paid for  
32 reimbursement once to each teacher who ~~completes~~ submits  
33 satisfactory evidence to the West Virginia Department of  
34 Education of completion of the National Board for Professional  
35 Teaching Standards certification. ~~Completion shall be defined as~~  
36 ~~the completion of ten scorable entries~~; as verified by the National  
37 Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers who

38 achieve National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
39 certification may be reimbursed a maximum of \$600 for  
40 expenses actually incurred while obtaining the National Board  
41 for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

42 (e) For renewal certification, each teacher who completes the  
43 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification  
44 renewal process shall be reimbursed for the renewal certification  
45 fee. Completion of the certification renewal process means the  
46 submission of satisfactory evidence to the West Virginia  
47 Department of Education of the successful renewal of the ten-  
48 year certification as verified by the National Board for Profes-  
49 sional Teaching Standards.

50 (f) The state board shall establish selection criteria for the  
51 teachers by the legislative rule required pursuant to subsection  
52 (h) of this section.

53 (g) Funding for reimbursement of the initial certification fee  
54 and expenses actually incurred while obtaining the National  
55 Board for Professional Teaching Standards certifications and  
56 funding for reimbursement of the renewal certification fee shall  
57 be administered by the State Department of Education from an

58 appropriation established for that purpose by the Legislature. If  
59 funds appropriated by the Legislature to accomplish the purposes  
60 of this subsection are insufficient, the state department shall  
61 prorate the reimbursements for expenses and shall request of the  
62 Legislature, at its next regular session, funds sufficient to  
63 accomplish the purposes of this subsection, including needed  
64 retroactive payments.

65 (h) The state board shall promulgate legislative rules  
66 pursuant to article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to  
67 implement the provisions of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make a technical improvement in the language for reimbursement of teachers for fees upon enrollment, completion or renewal of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. Currently completion is defined as submitting “ten scorable entries,” but the NBPTS has changed its definition several times over the years and the current statutory definition is no longer valid. The new language requires the submission of satisfactory evidence to the West Virginia Department of Education, rather than relying on a specific parameter of the NBPTS that may change.

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





