HOUSE BILL No. 1159

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-6.1-7.5.

Synopsis: Teacher certification incentives. Specifies a goal that by the year 2020 there will be at least one teacher who is certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (national board) in every public school in Indiana. Establishes the teachers' national board certification incentive fund for purposes of: (1) funding stipends of $200 per day for two days for teachers preparing for national board certification; (2) reimbursing 75% of the national board certification fee; (3) funding stipends for national board certified teachers who serve as mentors to other teachers; (4) reimbursing school corporations for the cost of paying teachers who have attained national board certification as of July 1, 2003, or thereafter an annual salary supplement of $2,000 for the life of the certificate; and (5) reimbursing school corporations for the cost of persons who serve as substitute teachers for national board certification candidates. Requires a school corporation to allow a teacher pursuing national board certification at least five days of released time during the school year.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Porter

January 7, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type.~~

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~*this style type*~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1159

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 20-6.1-7.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]:

Chapter 7.5. National Board Certification Incentives

Sec. 1. The general assembly establishes a goal that by the year 2020 there will be at least one (1) national board certified teacher in every public school in Indiana.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the teachers' national board certification incentive fund established by section 6 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "mentor" means a highly skilled, experienced teacher who provides systematic and ongoing support and assistance to other teachers in a school or school corporation to help them improve their teaching skills and practices.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "national board" refers to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, a nonpartisan, independent, and nonprofit board composed of

teachers and others that:

(1) has developed a set of high and rigorous standards for accomplished teachers; and

(2) operates a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet the board's standards.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "national board certification" means a demonstration by an experienced teacher of the teacher's teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards through a comprehensive assessment process administered by the national board.

Sec. 6. (a) The teachers' national board certification incentive fund is established for the following purposes:

(1) Funding stipends under section 7 of this chapter for teachers to prepare for certification by the national board.

(2) Reimbursing a portion of the certification fee under section 11 of this chapter to each teacher who is awarded national board certification.

(3) Funding stipends under section 12 of this chapter for national board certified teachers who serve as mentors to other teachers within the school corporation.

(4) Reimbursing school corporations under section 13 of this chapter for salary supplements paid to national board certified teachers.

(5) Reimbursing school corporations under section 14 of this chapter for persons who serve as substitute teachers for national board certification candidates.

(b) The department shall administer the fund.

(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund. The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(d) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

Sec. 7. A teacher who is:

(1) employed by a school corporation; and

(2) pursuing national board certification;

is entitled to receive from the fund a stipend of two hundred dollars ($200) per day for two (2) days beyond the school contract year to prepare for the certification assessments.

Sec. 8. A school corporation shall allow at least five (5) days of

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released time during the school year for a teacher pursuing national board certification.

Sec. 9. A school corporation may, at its own expense, provide additional released time for teachers pursuing national board certification.

Sec. 10. If a teacher does not successfully complete all assessments required for national board certification during a school year, the provisions in this chapter may be applied to a second school year for that teacher.

Sec. 11. A teacher who attains national board certification after June 30, 2003, shall be reimbursed from the fund for seventy-five percent (75%) of the certification fee for the initial ten (10) year certificate. Fees for renewal of the national board certificate shall be at the teacher's expense.

Sec. 12. (a) A national board certified teacher is entitled to receive a stipend from the fund in addition to the teacher's annual compensation for serving as a mentor to teachers within the teacher's school or school corporation in a mentoring program approved by the department.

(b) The department shall adopt rules under which a school corporation may establish a mentoring program involving national board certified teachers. The rules must specify the conditions for the mentoring program as well as the amount of the stipend that will be provided to a teacher serving as a mentor.

Sec. 13. (a) After June 30, 2003, a school corporation shall provide a public school teacher who has attained certification from the national board as of July 1, 2003, or thereafter with an annual national board certification salary supplement of two thousand dollars ($2,000) for the life of the certificate. The salary supplement shall be added to the teacher's base salary and shall be considered in the calculation for contributions to the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund.

(b) If a nationally certified teacher is no longer employed as a classroom teacher or a teacher mentor in the field of the teacher's national certification, the salary supplement under this section shall cease.

(c) A school corporation is entitled to reimbursement from the fund for salary supplements paid by the school corporation under this section.

Sec. 14. A school corporation is entitled to reimbursement from the fund for substitute teacher pay for persons who serve as substitute teachers for national board certification candidates. The

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reimbursement shall be based on the school corporation's salary schedule for substitute teachers.

Sec. 15. The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out this chapter.

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