(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds and declares: (1) The national board for professional teaching standards has established high and rigorous standards for what highly accomplished teachers should know and be able to do in order to increase students' learning results;

- (2) The national board certifies teachers who meet these standards through a rigorous, performance-based assessment process;
- (3) A certificate awarded by the national board attests that a teacher has met high and rigorous standards and has demonstrated the ability to make sound professional judgments about how to best meet students' learning needs and effectively help students meet challenging academic standards; and
- (4) Teachers who pursue national board certification should receive funding assistance in order to encourage more teachers to pursue certification for the benefit of Washington students.

Provides an appropriation of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.