

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5737

As of March 12, 2025

Title: An act relating to suspending the national board for professional standards certification bonuses for certificated instructional staff.

Brief Description: Suspending the national board for professional standards certification bonuses for certificated instructional staff.

Sponsors: Senator Robinson; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 3/13/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Reduces the annual bonuses for instructional staff with a National Board Certificate starting in the 2025-26 school year.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Trevor Press (786-7446)

Background: National Board Certificate Bonuses. The National Board Certificate (NBC) is a voluntary certificate for teachers and school counselors that allows eligible candidates to demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and practice in 25 certificate areas. An annual bonus is available to those with a current NBC. In the 2024-25 school year, the bonus was \$6,324.

Additional Bonus. Certificated instructional staff that have attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are eligible for an additional \$5,000 bonus if they work in a school that meets at least one of the following poverty metrics:

- at least 70 percent of the school's students qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program (FRPL);

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- the school was considered a high-poverty school in the year immediately preceding its participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision; or
- in the 2022-23 school year, the school was considered a high-poverty school and provided meals at no charge to students. This metric is only applicable in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

A high-poverty school is defined by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as those schools in which the percentage of students that were eligible for FRPL was at least:

- 70 percent for elementary schools;
- 60 percent for middle schools; and
- 50 percent for high schools.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): National Board Certificate Bonus. Starting in the 2025-26 school year, the annual bonus provided to certificated instructional staff with NBC is reduced to \$3,000. The bonus will increase by inflation every following year.

Additional Bonus. Starting in the 2025-26 school year, the additional bonus provided to certificated instructional staff who are in an instructional assignment in a school that meets a defined poverty metric is reduced to \$3,000. The bonus will increase by inflation every following year.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.