#### Assembly Amendment (AA-AB133)

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#### Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 20, 1999

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #790

### National Teacher Certification Incentive Program (DPI -- Assessments and Licensing)

[LFB 1999-01 Budget Summary: Page 502, #4]

#### **CURRENT LAW**

Under the state national teacher certification program, the Department of Public Instruction is required to award grants of \$2,000 to any eligible person in 1999-00, and \$2,500 in 2000-01 to any person who received a grant in the previous year and still meets the eligibility requirements for the program. In order to be eligible for a grant under the program, a person must meet the following criteria at the time of the initial grant and for the following grant year:

(a) be a resident of the state; (b) hold a teaching license issued by the State Superintendent or employed in private school; (c) be certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS); and (d) be employed as a teacher in the state. The program is funded from a sum sufficient appropriation.

#### GOVERNOR

Provide \$50,000 in 1999-00 and \$112,500 in 2000-01 and make permanent the national teacher certification incentive program. Increase the number of years an eligible teacher could receive a grant under the program by requiring DPI to award grants in the amount of \$2,500 to eligible teachers for nine consecutive years after the initial grant award of \$2,000. Require DPI to pay the first year grant in the school year in which the teacher is certified.

#### BACKGROUND

Created in 1987, the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member board of directors. Board members, who serve a maximum of two, three-year terms, include classroom teachers, school administrators,

school board members, state governors, state legislators, higher education officials, teachers union leaders and business and community leaders. According to materials developed by the Board, the mission of the NBPTS is to: (a) establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; (b) develop and operate a national, voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards; and (c) advance related educational reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.

The National Board's policy position states that the Board seeks to identify and recognize teachers who effectively enhance student learning and demonstrate the high level of knowledge, skills, dispositions and commitments reflected in five core propositions: (a) teachers are committed to students and their learning; (b) teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students; (c) teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning; (d) teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and (e) teachers are members of learning communities.

In 1999-00, there will be 16 fields available for National Board certification. The Board has plans to eventually develop standards in over 30 certificate fields. The Attachment lists the fields the Board is currently developing certificates for and highlights the fields available for certification in 1999-00.

To be eligible for National Board certification, teachers must have: (a) a bachelor's degree; (b) a minimum of three year's teaching experience; and (c) a valid state teaching license, or where a license is not required, teachers must be teaching in a school recognized and approved by the state. Teachers must apply for certificates offered in the 1999-00 school year on or before December 31, 1999; however, applications received between December 2 and 31 must include a \$200 late fee. In 1999-00, the cost of National Board certification is \$2,000 per candidate, in addition to minimal postage, materials and in-state travel costs.

The certification process consists of two parts. The first part is a portfolio, which is completed at the teacher's school and would include examples of student work, lesson plans, videotapes of classroom teaching, activities with parents and members of the community, personal assessments and recommendations. Following the submission of a portfolio, teachers must complete a full day of examinations at an NBPTS assessment center, which include four assignments that explore a teacher's knowledge of his or her subject area and pedagogical and instructional practices. The portfolio exercises are designed to be completed in an average of 120 hours over at least a four-month period. The assessment center portions of the process are designed to be completed in one day, in addition to several days of preparation.

Assessment exercises are scored by committees of current teachers who are selected by application and trained to assess candidates for National Board certification. Teachers must score 275 points out of a possible 400 to achieve certification. Candidates may appeal a decision of the Board, after which the Board president decides whether there is good cause for reconsideration of a candidate. Additionally, candidates may "bank" individual entry and exercise scores over a three-year period, which would allow a candidate who is not yet certified to retake any of the entries and exercises in the assessment package and submit new responses for rescoring. Further, the Board

may deny or revoke certification for any applicant or certificate holder who, in the sole judgement of the Board, has: (a) knowingly misrepresented or falsified material information, credentials or documents offered during the certification process; or (b) been convicted of a felony, had a teaching license denied, suspended or revoked, or, in the case of an unlicensed teacher, been fired or suspended, and where the conduct leading to such felony conviction, licensure action, firing or suspension has involved child abuse, job-related crimes, violent crimes against persons or other conduct of similar severity that the Board determines is inconsistent with the standards of the Board.

From 1993-94 through 1997-98, 1,836 teachers have received National Board certification. In 1998-99, approximately 6,900 teachers applied for certification. According to the National Board, 45% of the teachers who have applied for certification have been awarded certification. The certification is valid for ten years.

The state of Wisconsin currently maintains several connections to the NBPTS. There are two Wisconsin professors, one from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and one from Alverno College in Milwaukee, on the Board. Wisconsin hosts five NBPTS assessment centers, one each in Brookfield, Madison, Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Eau Claire. Finally, Wisconsin currently has two National Board-certified teachers, one of whom earned certification while teaching in the state of Kansas, and is currently a teacher in Onalaska and one who is currently teaching in Edgerton.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- 1. Under the 1997-99 budget adjustment bill, the Governor recommended creation of the national teacher certification incentive program. Under the Governor's proposal, beginning July 1, 1999, any person who held a teacher's license issued by the State Superintendent and who became certified by NBPTS while employed as a teacher in the state, could apply to DPI for a grant of \$3,000 and for reimbursement equal to one-half the costs of obtaining the national certification.
- 2. As passed by the Legislature, this program would have provided 20 eligible teachers who were certified by the NBPTS, during 1999-00 or in previous years, a grant of \$2,000 in 1999-00 and a grant of \$2,500 per for the following eight years. The Governor vetoed the 20-person limit and the provision that would have required DPI to make grants to eligible teachers for nine consecutive years.
- 3. The Governor's 1999-01 budget recommendation would increase the number of years an eligible teacher could receive a grant under the program by requiring DPI to award grants in the amount of \$2,500 to eligible teachers for nine consecutive years after the initial grant award of \$2,000. Under the Governor's proposal, each certified and eligible teacher would receive a total of \$24,500, compared to \$4,500 over two years under current law. Staff from DOA's budget office indicate the Governor included this provision in the budget bill to encourage teachers in Wisconsin to become certified by the NBPTS.
  - 4. Staff from DPI indicate there are 23 teachers that applied for and may receive

NBPTS certification in 1999-00. Therefore, with the addition of the two teachers that are currently certified, 25 teachers may be eligible for a grant in 1999-00. Given the December, 1999, application deadline, it is unknown at this time how many teachers would receive certification in 2000-01. The funding recommended by the Governor, \$50,000 in 1999-00 and \$112,500 in 2000-01 is based on 25 teachers receiving a license in each year. While it is possible that more than 25 teachers could apply for and receive their certification in 2000-01, given the recent creation of the program and the uncertainty regarding participation, the Governor's estimates appear reasonable. The grant program is funded with a sum sufficient appropriation.

- 5. The Committee may wish to consider the future costs of providing ten years of payments under this program. While the future fiscal impact of the program is difficult to determine, it is possible to illustrate the potential cost by assuming the current projected certification rate of 25 teachers per year continues for the next ten years. Under this estimate, the cost of the program would increase from \$50,000 GPR in 1999-00 to an estimated \$612,500 GPR in 2008-09. It is likely that certification rates will increase over the next ten years given the increased grant amounts and the fact that additional certification fields will become available over the coming years.
- 6. Staff at the NBPTS indicate that some federal funding may be available to states through the National Board, in order to provide funding to teachers to offset the costs of NBPTS certification. Because alternative funding may be available, the Committee may wish to specify that in the first year teachers could be reimbursed through a grant for the costs of obtaining certification that is not supported through other funding sources.
- 7. Due to the potential for increasing costs under this program, consideration could be given to maintaining the current grant amounts while making the program permanent. This would provide an incentive for teachers to apply for and receive NBPTS certification and allow the state to hold down future costs of the program. Under this alternative, there would be no funding modification in the 1999-01 biennium; however, over the ten-year grant period, again assuming 25 teacher are certified each year, estimated costs for the program would be \$112,500 GPR annually. One could argue, however, that providing the grant for only two years would lessen the incentive for teachers to seek certification and for certified teachers to remain in the state for longer than two years. Therefore, the goal of retaining highly qualified teachers could be jeopardized and the funding provided may not result in a long-term benefit to the state.
- 8. Alternatively, the Committee could consider providing lower grant amounts for the nine years following the year of certification. This would provide teachers with an incentive to become certified and remain employed as a teacher in the state for a longer period of time, but at a lower cost. Under this alternative, grants could be \$2,000 in the first year and \$1,000 for the next nine years. Based on 25 teachers receiving certification annually, it is estimated that costs would increase from \$50,000 in 1999-00 to \$275,000 in 2008-09. The table below shows the estimated amounts that would have to be appropriated using lower grant amounts for the second through tenth year of the grant program, assuming 25 teachers would be certified each year during the next biennium.

1999-00 <u>Appropriation</u>	2000-01 <u>Appropriation</u>	
\$50,000	\$62,500	
50,000	75,000	
50,000	87,500	
50,000	100,000	
	Appropriation \$50,000 50,000 50,000	

9. The bill as drafted would leave several aspects of the program unclear. The language in the bill provides that DPI would be required to award the initial grant in the school year in which the person was certified. Under this provision, it is not clear whether or not teachers that received NBPTS certification while residing in another state would be eligible for this program if they subsequently became residents of Wisconsin and met the other criteria of the program: (a) received a teaching license issued by the State Superintendent or became employed in private school; and (b) were employed as a teacher in the state. In addition, it appears that under the same provision that the two current Wisconsin NBPTS certified teachers would not be eligible for the grant program. The Committee may wish to clarify whether such individuals would be eligible for the program.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to: (a) provide \$50,000 GPR in 1999-00 and \$112,500 GPR in 2000-01 and make permanent the national teacher certification incentive program; (b) increase the number of years an eligible teacher could receive a \$2,500 grant under the program by eight years; and (c) require DPI to pay the first year grant in the school year in which the teacher is certified.
- 2. Modify the Governor's recommendation by eliminating the provision that increases the number of years an eligible teacher could receive a \$2,500 grant from one year to nine consecutive years. Under this alternative, a certified teacher would receive a grant for two years rather than ten years.
- 3. Modify the Governor's recommendation by decreasing the grant amount for years two through ten of the program as follows:

Grant	Amount	GPR Funding Change to Bill			
<u>Years 2-10</u>		1999-00	<u>2000-01</u>		
a.	\$500	<b>\$0</b>	-\$50,000		
b.	1,000	0	-37,500		
c.	1,500	0	-25,000		
đ.	2,000	0	-12,500		

- 4. In addition to the alternatives 1 through 3 approve one or more of the following changes:
- a. Modify the provision that directs DPI to award the initial grant of \$2,000 in the school year in which the person is certified to instead direct DPI to award the initial grant of \$2,000 in the school year in which the person is certified, or if certified prior to the effective date of the budget bill, in 1999-00.
- b. Modify the provision that directs DPI to award the initial grant of \$2,000 in the school year in which the person is certified to instead direct DPI to award the initial grant of \$2,000 in the school year in which the person is certified, or if certified while residing in another state, the first year the teacher meets the requirements for a state grant.
- c. Specify that the initial grant amount would be for the costs of obtaining certification not supported by other funding sources.
- 5. Maintain current law. Reduce funding in the bill to reflect only those teachers it is estimated would be eligible under current law for a grant in 1999-00 and 2000-01.

Alternative 5	<u>GPR</u>
1999-01 FUNDING (Change	to Bill) - \$50,000

Prepared by: Tricia Collins

# ATTACHMENT

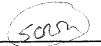
# Fields of NBPTS Certification\*

Early Childhood through Young Adulthood Ages 3-184	Exceptional Needs
Early Adolescence through Young Adult Ages 11-18±	English as a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Language Vocational Education Art Exceptional Needs/Specialist Social Studies - History Foreign Language Guidance Counseling Health Library/Media Music Physical Education
Adolescence and Young Adult Ages 14-18+	English Language Arts Mathematics Science Social Studies - History
Early Adolescence <u>Ages 11-15</u>	Generalists English Language Arts Mathematics Science Social Studies - History
Early & Middle Childhood <u>Ages 3-12</u>	English as a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Language Exceptional Needs/Specialist Foreign Language Guidance Counseling Library/Media Music Physical Education Art
Middle Childhood <u>Ages 7-12</u>	Generalist English Language Arts Social Studies - History Mathematics Science
Early Childhood <u>Ages 3-8</u>	Generalist

\*Items in bold are fields available for the 1999-00 assessment period. Assessments are being developed for the remaining fields.

1999

Date (time



## LFB BUDGET AMENDMENT [ONLY FOR LFB]

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See form AMENDMENTS — COMPONENTS & ITEMS.

#### LFB AMENDMENT TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

>>FOR JT. FIN. SUB. — NOT FOR INTRODUCTION<<

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#### State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE





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FOR 1999-01 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

#### LFB AMENDMENT

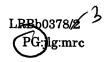
#### TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

2	<b>1.</b> Page 985, line 16: substitute "\$2,000" for "\$2,000".
3	2. Page 985, line 21: after "(b)" insert "The amount of the grant under this
4	subsection shall be equal to the costs of obtaining certification under par. (a) 1. that
5	are borne by the person.".
$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{6} \end{pmatrix}$	3. Page 985, line 22: after "(a) 1." insert ", except that if the person becomes
7	certified under par. (a) 1. while he or she is not a resident of this state, the department
8	shall award the grant under this subsection in the first school year in which the
9	person meets the requirements under par. (a).".
10	(END)

At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:



#### State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE





LFB:.....Collins - National teacher certification

#### FOR 1999-01 BUDGET - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

#### LFB AMENDMENT

#### TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

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- 2. Page 985, line 21: after "(b)" insert "The appropriate of the grant under this subsection shall be equal to the costs of obtaining certification under par. (a) 1. that are borne by the person.".
- 3. Page 985, line 22: after "(a) 1." insert ", except that if the person becomes certified under par. (a) 1. while he or she is not a resident of this state, the department shall award the grant under this subsection in the first school year in which the person meets the requirements under par. (a).".

(END)

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#### State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

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LFB:.....Collins - National teacher certification.

#### FOR 1999-01 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

#### LFB AMENDMENT

#### TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

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- **1.** Page 985, line 16: substitute "\$2,000" for "\$2,000".
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- 3. Page 985, line 22: after "(a) 1." insert ", except that if) the person becomes certified under par. (a) 1. while he or she is not a resident of this state, the department shall award the grant under this subsection in the first school year in which the person meets the requirements under par. (a).".

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#### State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

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LFB:.....Collins - National teacher certification

#### FOR 1999-01 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

#### LFB AMENDMENT

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certified under par. (a) 1. while he or she is not a resident of this state, the department
shall award the grant under this subsection in the first school year in which the
person meets the requirements under par. (a).".

At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

4. Page 1415, line 2: after that line insert:

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"(1f) National Teacher Certification. Notwithstanding section 115.42 (1) (b) of the statutes, as created by this act, if a person who is eligible for a grant under section 115.42 (1) (a) of the statutes, as affected by this act, became certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards before the effective date of this subsection, the department of public instruction shall award the grant under section 115.42 (1) of the statutes, as affected by this act, in the 1999–2000 fiscal year.".

(END)