AN ACT to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 20.255 (3) (bt), 40.02 (22) (b) 15. and 115.418 of the statutes; relating to: longevity bonuses for teachers in school districts.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, the Department of Public Instruction must pay a $7,000 bonus to any teacher who has been licensed by DPI and employed by a school board continuously for five school years. Under the bill, the first school year counted for the longevity bonus payments is the 2022-23 school year, such that DPI will begin making bonus payments in the 2027-28 school year. Teachers are eligible for additional bonus payments for subsequent five-year periods that do not overlap. The bonus is not considered earnings for the purposes of the Wisconsin Retirement System.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 20.255 (3) (bt) of the statutes is created to read:

20.255 (3) (bt) Teacher longevity bonuses. A sum sufficient to make the payments under s. 115.418.
SECTION 2. 40.02 (22) (b) 15. of the statutes is created to read:

40.02 (22) (b) 15. A bonus payment made by the department of public instruction under s. 115.418.

SECTION 3. 115.418 of the statutes is created to read:

115.418 Teacher longevity bonuses. (1) Subject to sub. (2), beginning in the 2027-28 school year, from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (3) (bt), the department shall pay a bonus in the amount of $7,000 to each individual who satisfies all of the following:

(a) The individual is licensed as a teacher by the state superintendent and has been continuously so licensed for the previous 5 school years.

(b) The individual is employed as a teacher by a school board and has been continuously so employed by that school board for the previous 5 school years.

(2) If an individual receives a bonus payment under sub. (1), the individual is eligible for additional bonus payments for any subsequent 5-year periods that do not include a school year that was used to determine the individual's eligibility for a prior bonus payment.

(3) Each school board annually shall report to the department the names of teachers employed by the school board who are eligible for a bonus payment under sub. (1).

SECTION 4. 119.04 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

119.04 (1) Subchapters IV, V, and VII of ch. 115, ch. 121, and ss. 66.0235 (3) (c), 66.0603 (1m) to (3), 115.01 (1) and (2), 115.28, 115.31, 115.33, 115.34, 115.343, 115.345, 115.363, 115.364, 115.365 (3), 115.366, 115.367, 115.38 (2), 115.415, 115.418, 115.445, 118.001 to 118.04, 118.045, 118.06, 118.07, 118.075, 118.076, 118.10, 118.12, 118.125 to 118.14, 118.145 (4), 118.15, 118.153, 118.16, 118.162, 118.163, 118.164,
118.18, 118.19, 118.196, 118.20, 118.223, 118.225, 118.24 (1), (2) (c) to (f), (6), (8), and
(10), 118.245, 118.25, 118.255, 118.258, 118.291, 118.292, 118.293, 118.30 to 118.43,
118.46, 118.50, 118.51, 118.52, 118.53, 118.55, 118.56, 120.12 (2m), (4m), (5), and (15)
to (27), 120.125, 120.13 (1), (2) (b) to (g), (3), (14), (17) to (19), (26), (34), (35), (37),
(37m), and (38), 120.137, 120.14, 120.20, 120.21 (3), and 120.25 are applicable to a
1st class city school district and board but not, unless explicitly provided in this
chapter or in the terms of a contract, to the commissioner or to any school transferred
to an opportunity schools and partnership program.