



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #658

National Teacher Certification and Master Educator Reestimate (DPI -- Administrative and Other Funding)

[LFB 2009-11 Budget Summary: Page 539, #12]

CURRENT LAW

DPI is required to award a grant to any person who does all of the following: (a) is certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) or is licensed by DPI as a master educator; (b) is licensed as a teacher by the State Superintendent or is employed as a teacher in a private school located in this state; and (c) is employed as a teacher in this state. The grant is equal to the costs of obtaining certification, not to exceed \$2,000, in the school year in which the person meets the criteria. In addition, the grant recipient receives \$2,500 in each of the nine school years following the school year in which he or she received the initial grant, if the person does all of the following: (a) maintains NBPTS or master educator certification; (b) maintains state licensure or employment in a private school; and (c) remains employed as a teacher in this state. The amount of the continuing grant is doubled to \$5,000 in any school year in which the recipient is employed in a school in which at least 60% of the pupils enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. In 2008-09, \$1,653,800 GPR is budgeted for the program, which is paid from a sum sufficient appropriation established for this purpose.

GOVERNOR

Reestimate funding by \$417,900 in 2009-10 and \$735,300 in 2010-11 over annual base level funding of \$1,653,800 for grants to teachers who are certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards or receive master educator licensure from DPI.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Created in 1987, the NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit organization governed by a 63-member board of directors. The mission of the NBPTS is to: (a) establish 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.

2. The state's national teacher certification grant program was created by 1997 Act 237. NBPTS subsidizes a portion of the \$2,000 candidate fee, which results in an average initial state grant of \$1,800. Continuing grants of \$2,500 are then provided annually for the next nine years.

3. Under 2007 Act 20, the program was expanded to include teachers receiving master educator licenses under Chapter PI 34 of the Administrative Code, which is also a 10-year license and thought to be at least as rigorous as the national certification, with the added requirement of a master's degree. In addition, under Act 20, nationally certified teachers and master educators may qualify for higher grant awards, if employed in schools in which at least 60% of the pupils enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Grants for teachers in high poverty schools are \$5,000 annually, rather \$2,500.

4. While figures are not finalized until June each year, in 2008-09 it is anticipated that 75 new teachers will receive national board certification, 443 teachers will receive continuing grants, and 49 teachers will receive continuing high poverty grants. For master educators, it is expected that seven continuing teachers and two continuing teachers in high poverty schools will receive grants. In addition, DPI is required by the IRS to pay Medicare and Social Security taxes on behalf of continuing grant recipients, which adds to the overall cost of the program.

5. A total of \$1,356,500 GPR was originally budgeted for this program in 2007-08, and DPI expended \$1,227,100 from the appropriation. For 2008-09, \$1,653,800 GPR is budgeted for this purpose, and payments are estimated at \$1,620,600. The estimates included in AB 75 are based on projections that program participation will increase by approximately 100 teachers annually. This projected growth rate is higher than program growth in recent years, which has been approximately 75 new teachers annually. If increases of approximately 80 teachers annually are used (75 under the general program and five under high poverty), estimated GPR sum sufficient funding could be reduced.

6. If all 525 currently participating teachers qualify for grants in 2009-10, continuing grants will total \$1,312,500. Continuing grants will total \$1,500,000 in 2010-11. For teachers in high poverty schools, an estimated 60 grants will be awarded for \$300,000 in 2009-10 and 65 grants, totaling \$325,000, in 2010-11. In addition, Medicare and Social Security taxes on behalf of continuing teachers under this program are estimated to be \$123,400 in 2009-10 and \$139,600 in 2010-11. Finally, it is estimated that there will be 75 newly-certified NBPTS and master educators in 2009-10 and 2010-11, receiving initial grants averaging \$1,800 each, for a total of \$135,000 annually. Based on these estimates, expenditures would equal \$217,100 in 2009-10 and \$445,800 in

2010-11 above base level funding of \$1,653,800 for the program. As a change to the bill, this reestimate would decrease funding by \$200,800 in 2009-10 and \$289,500 in 2010-11.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$417,900 in 2009-10 and \$735,300 in 2010-11 over annual base level funding of \$1,653,800 for national certification, master educator, and high poverty grants to teachers.

2. Reduce funding by -\$200,800 in 2009-10 and -\$289,500 in 2010-11 as a reestimate of the costs of the program, for total funding of \$1,870,900 in 2009-10 and \$2,099,600 in 2010-11.

ALT 2	Change to Bill Funding
GPR	- \$490,300

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