



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #631

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

[LFB 2003-05 Budget Summary: Page 356, #7]

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); (b) is licensed as a teacher by the State Superintendent or employed as a teacher in a private school; and (c) is employed as a teacher in this state. The grant must equal 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 certification; (b) maintains state license or employment in a private school; and (c) remains employed as a teacher in this state. In 2002-03, \$282,500 GPR is provided for the program, which is paid from a sum sufficient appropriation established for this purpose.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$262,500 GPR in 2003-04 and \$665,000 GPR in 2004-05 above base level funding of \$282,500 to fully fund awards for teachers earning certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. As a result, funding would total \$545,000 GPR in 2003-04 and \$947,500 GPR in 2004-05.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Created in 1987, the NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan 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 approximately \$600 of the \$2,300 candidate fee, for an average initial state grant of \$1,700. Continuing grants of \$2,500 are then provided annually for the next nine years. In 2001-02, \$146,000 GPR was budgeted for this purpose, and DPI expended a total of \$125,300. For 2002-03, \$282,500 GPR is budgeted for this purpose, and through March 31, 2003, DPI had expended \$290,800 from this sum sufficient appropriation. There are 78 teachers receiving continuing grants, and 56 receiving initial grants.

3. Under chapter PI 34, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the Department changed teacher licensing rules to include certification by NBPTS as an optional route to obtain state certification at the master educator level, which is the voluntary, highest available certification under the new state system for school personnel certification. The Department expects that this further incentive will increase the number of applicants for this grant.

4. If all 134 currently participating teachers continue to qualify for grants in 2003-04, continuing grants will total \$335,000. It is estimated that 90 to 100 teachers will receive initial grants, totaling approximately \$170,000, for a total national certification cost of \$505,000 in 2003-04. Approximately 234 continuing grants would be awarded in 2004-05, along with an estimated 200 initial grants, for a total cost of \$925,000. Based on these estimates, funding could be reduced by an estimated \$40,000 GPR in 2003-04 and \$22,500 GPR in 2004-05.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$262,500 GPR in 2003-04 and \$665,000 GPR in 2004-05 above the base level of \$282,500 GPR for national certification grants.

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to reduce funding by \$40,000 GPR and \$22,500 GPR in 2004-05 from the amounts provided in SB 44.

Alternative 2	GPR
2003-05 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$62,500

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