



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #631

Grants for Master Educators and National Teacher Certification Reestimate (DPI -- Administrative and Other Funding)

[LFB 2005-07 Budget Summary: Page 412, #11 and Page 413, #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); (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 2004-05, \$625,000 GPR is provided for the program, which is paid from a sum sufficient appropriation established for this purpose.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$30,000 GPR in 2005-06 and \$92,500 GPR in 2006-07 and authorize DPI to expand the national teacher certification program to provide grants to persons receiving master educator licenses under Chapter PI 34 of the Administrative Code. Grant amounts would be equal to those awarded under the current law program, up to \$2,000 in the first year and \$2,500 annually thereafter for nine years.

Modify current law eligibility requirements for these grants to apply to persons who are employed in a position that requires a license issued by the State Superintendent or that would require such a license if the position were in a public school, rather than only to teachers as under current law.

Also, provide \$155,000 in 2005-06 and \$342,500 in 2006-07 above base level funding of \$625,000 to fund the estimated continuing costs of national teacher certification grants to teachers.

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 up to \$2,000 of the candidate fee, for an average initial state grant of \$1,200. Continuing grants of \$2,500 are then provided annually for the next nine years. In 2004-05, 63 new teachers were certified, and 204 teachers were receiving continuing grants.

Grants for Master Educators

3. Effective July 1, 2004, the Department changed teacher licensing rules under PI 34 to include certification by NBPTS as an optional route to obtain state certification at the master educator level, which is the highest available certification under the new state system for school personnel certification. Alternatively, an individual may follow a state process to receive a master educator license under PI 34 in subject areas not currently offered under the NBPTS. These areas include the following: (a) administration: superintendent, school business administrator, director of instruction, principal, local vocational education coordinator, director of special education and pupil services, library media supervisor, instructional technology coordinator, and reading specialist; (b) pupil services: school nurse, school counselor, school psychologist, and school social worker; and (c) teaching and supplemental: adaptive physical education, assistive technology, adaptive education, speech and language pathology, computer science, dance, psychology, and theater. DPI indicates that eventually the state process will offer master educator licenses in the subject areas granted through the NBPTS as well.

4. The state requirements to obtain a master educator license include: (a) documentation of a related master's degree; (b) five years of professional experience in education; (c) evidence of improved pupil learning; and (d) an assessment process. The assessment includes examination and observation by a team of three educators who have similar responsibilities to the candidate's, and who have been trained by DPI. PI 34 requires that the state assessment process be comparable to the NBPTS process. A master educator license has a 10-year duration, compared to a five-year duration for a professional educator license, and up to five years for an initial educator license.

5. DPI indicates that the master educator licensing process is at least as rigorous as that of NBPTS, with the added requirement that the applicant hold a master's degree. Currently, no

additional compensation is available for recipients of master educator licenses, unless contracts in individual districts provide them. As such, DPI has requested and the Governor recommended that the state grant available to educators who are certified by NBPTS should likewise be available to educators who receive master educator licenses through the state process. Without a comparable grant, one could argue that there is a disincentive to pursue the master educator license through the state, rather than through the NBPTS.

6. The Governor's proposal would also allow several new classes of school employees to receive the grants. Whereas previously only teachers were eligible, the proposal would add administrators and pupil services employees. While one could argue that all professionals working in schools impact student education, whether through leadership, instruction, or support services, it could also be argued that teachers have the most direct contact with pupils and therefore the greatest impact on student learning. The Committee could consider whether, as a matter of policy, the state should encourage all licensed employees to pursue this optional advanced certification, or whether it should target teachers specifically.

7. The state process will grant master educator licenses for the first time in 2005-06, and DPI estimates that 25 master educators will be licensed. In 2006-07, DPI estimates an additional 25 master educators will be licensed. The estimated costs of expanding the state grant for nationally certified teachers to state certified master educators would total \$30,000 in 2005-06 and \$92,500 in 2006-07. It is not known at this time how many master educators would be certified in teaching, pupil services, or administration.

National Teacher Certification Reestimate

8. For the current law program, in 2003-04, \$420,000 GPR was budgeted for this purpose, and DPI expended \$420,951 from this sum sufficient appropriation. For 2004-05, \$625,000 GPR is budgeted for this purpose, and through March 31, 2005, DPI had expended \$544,300 GPR. There are 204 teachers receiving continuing grants, and 63 receiving initial grants.

9. If all 267 currently participating teachers continue to qualify for grants in 2005-06, continuing grants will total \$667,500. It is estimated that 75 teachers will receive initial grants in 2005-06 totaling approximately \$90,000, for a total national certification cost of \$757,500 in 2005-06. It is estimated that 342 continuing grants and 75 initial grants will be awarded in 2006-07, for a total cost of \$945,000. Based on these estimates, funding could be reduced by an estimated \$22,500 annually, compared to the bill.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Grants for Master Educators

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$30,000 in 2005-06 and \$92,500 in 2006-07 and authorize DPI to expand the national teacher certification program to provide grants to persons receiving master educator licenses under PI 34, including teachers, pupil

services professionals, and administrators.

2. Delete \$12,000 in 2005-06 and \$37,000 in 2006-07 and authorize DPI to expand the program only to teachers and pupil services professionals receiving master educator certification would be eligible for grants.

<u>Alternative A2</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$49,000

3. Delete \$18,000 in 2005-06 and \$55,500 in 2006-07 and authorize DPI to expand the program only to teachers receiving master educator certification would be eligible for grants.

<u>Alternative A3</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$73,500

4. Delete the provision.

<u>Alternative A4</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$122,500

B. National Teacher Certification Reestimate

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$155,000 in 2005-06 and \$342,500 in 2006-07 above base level funding of \$625,000 for national certification grants.

2. Reduce funding by -\$22,500 annually as a reestimate of the costs of the program under current law.

<u>Alternative B2</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$45,000

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