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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>SB200/aHEC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Sapien</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205469.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC;HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Certified School Employee Program Units</u>		
Analyst	<u>Simon</u>	Original Date	<u>2/2/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u>3/6/17</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee Amendment for Senate Bill 200 (SB200/aHEC) would require licensed school employees to be employed in a position for which they hold certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to become eligible for a salary differential.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 200 (SB200) would expand eligibility for the one-time salary increase for completing certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) from “teachers” to all “licensed school employees.” The Public School Code defines “licensed school employees” as teachers, school administrators, and instructional support providers.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB200/aHEC could increase the number of program units generated by school districts and charter schools. Without an increase in appropriations to the state equalization guarantee (SEG) distribution, an increase in the number of units would dilute the unit value, impacting school districts and charter schools statewide. The fiscal impact of SB200/aHEC would depend on the number of school employees, apart from teachers, who hold national board certification and are employed in a position for which they hold national board certification.

According to data from the Public Education Department (PED), 675 national board certified teachers received a salary increase of at least \$5,969 in FY17, accounting for a total of \$4 million in formula funding. PED estimates the cost for providing salary increases for 19 certified library media specialists and four certified school counselors at \$137 thousand. PED notes this estimate of 23 certified employees may not cover all certified licensed school employees but was the information received by the department as of January 31, 2017.

SB200/aHEC could encourage licensed school employees who are not teachers to seek national board certification, increasing the fiscal impact of the bill over time. The number of national board certified teachers has increased from 85 in FY04, the first year program units were generated by national board certification, to 675 in FY17. This suggests the program has been successful at encouraging teachers to pursue national board certification.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to NBPTS, board certification is a voluntary system that certifies a teacher meets rigorous standards of classroom instruction. National board certification is offered in 25 different areas. Most apply to teachers, but one area of certification is for school counselors and another is for library media specialists.

Since FY04, the New Mexico funding formula has distributed funding to school districts and charter schools on the condition that the school district or charter school give national board certified teachers a one-time salary differential that is at least the amount of funding generated by the certified teacher program units. Teachers receive the differential in each year they hold NBPTS certification.

SB200/aHEC expands the current salary increases to all licensed school employees if they hold national board certification in their area of employment. This would expand the salary increase to school counselors and library media specialists. A school counselor who became certified in one of the teaching areas would not be eligible to receive a salary increase unless the employee became national board certified in school counseling. Although NBPTS does not currently offer certification for school administrators, if the NBPTS were to provide this certification in the future, school administrators could become eligible for the salary increase, but any school administrator that was a national board certified teacher would have to receive certification as an administrator.

According to PED, the department has not found data linking NBPTS certification to improved student outcomes and notes that when program units for national board certified teachers were first included in the funding formula, NBPTS only offered certification for 13 “teaching areas.”

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would be required to verify the school district or charter school that claims program units for employees with national board certification are providing those employees with a salary increase at least equal to the amount of funding generated by the certified teacher program units.

RELATED BILLS

SB200/aHEC is a duplicate of HB130/aHFI#1, School Program Units for School Employers

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department
- National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

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