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HOUSE BILL 102

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

G. Andrés Romero

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; ENACTING THE NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFICATION SCHOLARSHIP ACT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES;
PROVIDING FOR APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS; CREATING A FUND; MAKING
AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"National Board Certification Scholarship Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITION.--As used in the National Board
Certification Scholarship Act, "school principal" includes a
charter school head administrator."

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 SECTION 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
2 enacted to read:

3 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM--DEPARTMENT POWERS AND
4 DUTIES--QUALIFICATIONS--APPLICATIONS--PREFERENCES--REPORTS.--

5 A. The department may award a "national board
6 certification scholarship" to an eligible teacher seeking
7 certification from the national board for professional teaching
8 standards, which scholarship shall be equal to the
9 certification fees assessed by the national board. A
10 scholarship shall be for no longer than three years, paid
11 annually upon notification that the teacher is still an active
12 participant in the certification process, unless the department
13 finds that exigent circumstances prevent the teacher from
14 finishing the certification process within three years. The
15 department shall provide by rule what circumstances qualify as
16 exigent circumstances.

17 B. A teacher is eligible to apply for a national
18 board certification scholarship if the teacher:

- 19 (1) is a New Mexico resident;
20 (2) holds a valid level two or higher teaching
21 license;
22 (3) is teaching in a New Mexico public school;
23 and
24 (4) submits a reference letter from the
25 teacher's school principal.

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1 C. Applications shall be submitted to the
2 department on forms and in a manner provided by rule of the
3 department.

4 D. The department may provide by rule for
5 scholarship contractual terms and application evaluation and
6 other criteria to implement the scholarship program, including
7 subject matter and grade-level preferences if there are more
8 applications than available funding. The department may
9 interview applicants.

10 E. The department shall provide an annual report on
11 the national board certification scholarship program to the
12 governor and the legislature, including the:

- 13 (1) number of teachers who receive
- 14 scholarships each year and the value of each scholarship;
- 15 (2) number of teachers who receive national
- 16 board certification each year through the scholarship program;
- 17 (3) length of time each teacher takes to
- 18 receive certification;
- 19 (4) educator evaluation rating for scholarship
- 20 recipients during their first five years of teaching as board-
- 21 certified teachers;
- 22 (5) name of the school district and public
- 23 school where the scholarship recipient is employed; and
- 24 (6) performance of students in classes taught
- 25 by scholarship-supported board-certified teachers in comparison

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underscored material = new
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1 to students taught by non-board-certified teachers in the
2 school district or charter school."

3 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
4 enacted to read:

5 "[NEW MATERIAL] FUND CREATED--METHOD OF PAYMENT.--The
6 "national board certification scholarship fund" is created as a
7 nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of
8 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund is
9 subject to appropriation by the legislature. Money in the fund
10 shall be expended solely for the purpose of awarding
11 scholarships pursuant to the National Board Certification
12 Scholarship Act. Payments from the fund shall be on warrant of
13 the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to
14 vouchers signed by the secretary of public education or the
15 secretary's authorized representative."

16 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars
17 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the public education reform
18 fund to the national board certification scholarship fund for
19 expenditure in fiscal year 2021 to provide national board
20 certification scholarships to successful applicants. Any
21 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a
22 fiscal year shall not revert to the public education reform
23 fund.