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AN ACT

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

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:

"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:

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

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

"SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM--DEPARTMENT POWERS AND
DUTIES--QUALIFICATIONS--APPLICATIONS--PREFERENCES--REPORTS.--

A. The department may award a "national board
certification scholarship" to an eligible teacher seeking
certification from the national board for professional
teaching standards, which scholarship shall be equal to the
certification fees assessed by the national board. A
scholarship shall be for no longer than three years, paid

1 annually upon notification that the teacher is still an
2 active participant in the certification process, unless the
3 department finds that exigent circumstances prevent the
4 teacher from finishing the certification process within three
5 years. The department shall provide by rule what
6 circumstances qualify as exigent circumstances.

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

- 9 (1) is a New Mexico resident;
10 (2) holds a valid level two or higher
11 teaching license;
12 (3) is teaching in a New Mexico public
13 school; and
14 (4) submits a reference letter from the
15 teacher's school principal.

16 C. Applications shall be submitted to the
17 department on forms and in a manner provided by rule of the
18 department.

19 D. The department may provide by rule for
20 scholarship contractual terms and application evaluation and
21 other criteria to implement the scholarship program,
22 including subject matter and grade-level preferences if there
23 are more applications than available funding. The department
24 may interview applicants.

25 E. The department shall provide an annual report

1 on the national board certification scholarship program to
2 the governor and the legislature, including the:

3 (1) number of teachers who receive
4 scholarships each year and the value of each scholarship;

5 (2) number of teachers who receive national
6 board certification each year through the scholarship
7 program;

8 (3) length of time each teacher takes to
9 receive certification;

10 (4) educator evaluation rating for
11 scholarship recipients during their first five years of
12 teaching as board-certified teachers;

13 (5) name of the school district and public
14 school where the scholarship recipient is employed; and

15 (6) performance of students in classes
16 taught by scholarship-supported board-certified teachers in
17 comparison to students taught by non-board-certified teachers
18 in the school district or charter school."

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

21 "FUND CREATED--METHOD OF PAYMENT.--The "national board
22 certification scholarship fund" is created as a nonreverting
23 fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of
24 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund is
25 subject to appropriation by the legislature. Money in the

1 fund shall be expended solely for the purpose of awarding
2 scholarships pursuant to the National Board Certification
3 Scholarship Act. Payments from the fund shall be on warrant
4 of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to
5 vouchers signed by the secretary of public education or the
6 secretary's authorized representative." _____

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