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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>HB102/aHAFC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Romero, Andres G.</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216227.3</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/H AFC;SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>National Board Certification Scholarship Act</u>		
Analyst	<u>Canada</u>	Original Date	<u>1/28/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/19/2020</u>

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Amendment to House Bill 102 (HB102/aHAFC) struck the \$500 thousand appropriation from the public education reform fund.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 102 (HB102) would allow the Public Education Department (PED) to make scholarship awards to teachers licensed as level 2 or higher to cover the cost of National Board certification.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB102/aHAFC would create the National Board certification fund as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury and authorizes PED to use the fund to award scholarships to eligible teachers.

The Senate Finance Committee Amendment to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS/aSFC) includes a nonrecurring appropriation to PED of \$500 thousand for National Board certification grants contingent on the passage of legislation. HB102/aHAFC is consistent with the language in HB2/HAFCS/aSFC and would make PED eligible to receive this appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB102/aHAFC would allow PED to award scholarships to eligible teachers equal to the cost of becoming a National Board-certified teacher. The cost to complete the certification process is \$1,975. The appropriation included in this bill would cover approximately 250 teachers to go through the National Board certification process, a performance-based, peer-reviewed process, created to demonstrate how teacher performance impacts student learning and achievement. The bill does not allow a scholarship to be provided to one teacher for more than three years. The

National Board notes that certification can be completed between one and five years depending on the pace of the applicant.

Teachers eligible for the scholarship include teachers who are New Mexico residents, hold a valid level 2 or higher teaching license, teach in a New Mexico public school, and submit a reference letter from the teacher's school principal. To qualify for National Board certification, a candidate must possess a bachelor's degree, complete three full-years of teaching, and hold a valid state teaching license, which aligns with level 2 teacher licensure requirements in the state.

HB102/aHAFC does not specify if scholarship funds could be used for National Board certification renewal costs. National Board certification is valid for five years and can be renewed by candidates demonstrating that their classroom practices are consistent with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The cost to renew is \$1,250.

It is also unclear if the scholarship is to be used only for initial certification cost or would also allow for candidates to retake the test. National Board certification allows for candidates to retake each of the four required components up to two times at an additional cost. Additionally, PED analysis indicated HB102/aHAFC does not stipulate penalties if the scholarship recipient does not pass the National Board certification assessment or chooses to discontinue the process of seeking National Board certification. PED's analysis also points out the bill does not include an appeal process if the applicant is not chosen for the scholarship. HB102/aHAFC does give the department the ability through rule to provide scholarship contractual terms, application evaluation, and other criteria to implement the program.

According to current law, a teacher who receives their National Board certification is eligible to advance from a level 2 teaching license to a level 3-A teaching license. The teachers' pay will increase from a minimum \$50 thousand for a level 2 teacher to a minimum \$60 thousand for a level 3-A teacher. Additionally, teachers who receive National Board certification will receive an additional stipend on top of their base salary pay for each year they are certified. National Board certification in English as a New Language qualifies toward a teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) endorsement on an existing state teaching license. The cost of stipends for National Board-certified teachers is included in school districts and charter schools state equalization guarantee calculation.

National research shows that on average National Board-certified teachers are more effective than other teachers and have a positive impact on student outcomes. In some studies, National Board-certified teachers increased student learning by an additional one to two months compared to their peers with similar experience. Additionally, one study by the University of Washington and the Urban Institute, found National Board-certified teachers have an even greater impact for minority and low-income students. Other studies found that while certification can identify effective teachers, it does not make teachers more effective than they were before certification.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB102/aHAFC would require PED to establish an application process and other applicant criteria through rule, such as providing preference to candidates who teach specific subjects or specific grades, if there are more applicants than funding available.

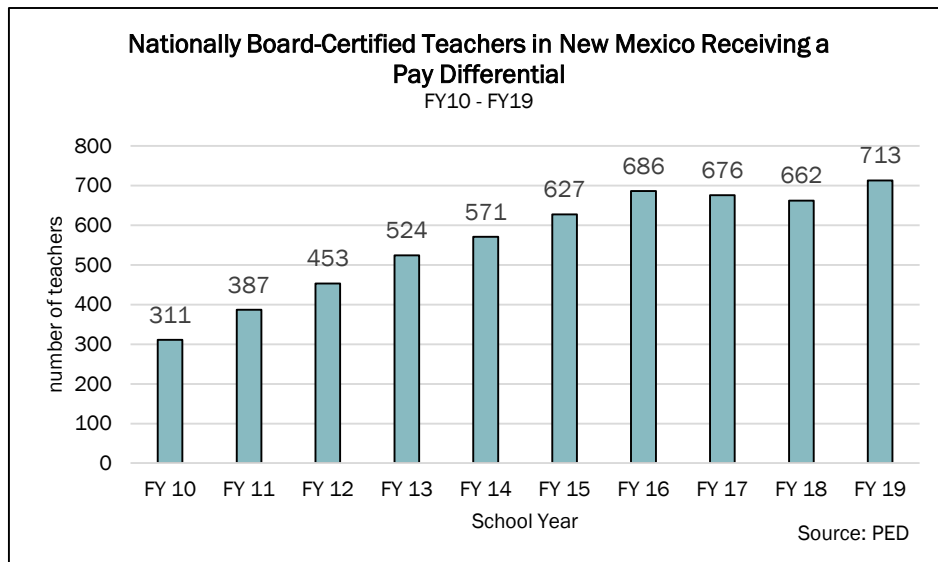
The bill would also require PED to present an annual report on the National Board certification scholarship program to the governor and legislature. The report must include how the fund money

is being spent by presenting details on scholarships awarded, outcomes from participants, and comparisons of National Board certification scholarship awardees versus other teacher’s performance.

PED noted in their analysis the appropriation does not include funding for the department to implement and oversee the scholarship program. Costs associated with the creation, support, implementation, and supervision of the scholarship program are to be absorbed within the department.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to National Board for Professional Teaching Standards data, in New Mexico 1,276 teachers are certified by the National Board and 579 teachers are currently going through the process towards certification, which totals 8 percent of the licensed teachers in the state. According to PED data, in the 2018-2019 school year, 713 teachers received a salary differential – at least \$6,848 per year – for being a National Board-certified teacher, over double the amount of teachers who received this in 2009. Data from the National Board shows more certifications than teachers currently receiving a pay differential, likely because the National Board does not consider how many certified teachers are actually employed, and because counselors and administrators are also eligible for National Board certification.



Twenty-one other states, including Arizona, Utah and Wisconsin, subsidize or reimburse the assessment application fee for teachers in their states to receive their National Board certification.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB90, Licensed School Employee Program Units, which expands eligibility for National Board certification program units in the public school funding formula to all National Board-certified licensed school employees, rather than only teachers.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)