

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 555

5 By: Senator A. Clark
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO TARGET AND ENHANCE INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR
9 TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS WHO OBTAIN
10 NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
11 CERTIFICATION; TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND
12 CODIFY THE AMOUNT OF INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR CURRENT
13 RECIPIENTS; TO REPEAL UNFUNDED INCENTIVE BONUSES; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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18 TO MODIFY INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR NATIONAL
19 BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
20 CERTIFICATION.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-17-
26 413(a)(3)(A) and § 6-17-413(a)(3)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning National Board for
27 Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (3)(A) The department shall pay a ~~starting incentive bonus of~~
30 ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon receiving the certification of the~~
31 ~~national board and a yearly incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~
32 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every no more than ten (10) school year
33 years for the life of the certificate of the national board to any classroom
34 teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal who:

35 (i) Is selected by the State Board of Education to
36 participate in the program of the national board;



1 (ii) Successfully completes the certification
 2 process of the national board;

3 (iii) Receives certification of the national board
 4 before January 1, 2018; and

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 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(a)(3)(B) and (C), concerning
 7 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is
 8 amended to read as follows:

9 (B)(i) A teacher certified by the national board who moves
 10 into the state on or before January 1, 2017 and is employed full time as a
 11 classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant
 12 principal in an Arkansas public school district shall be eligible for the
 13 yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school
 14 year the person is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level
 15 principal, or building-level assistant principal in a local public school
 16 district for ~~the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than
 17 ten (10) school years.

18 (ii) A teacher who holds national board
 19 certification on or after August 1, 2009, who moves into the state on or
 20 before January 1, 2017, shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of
 21 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school year the teacher is employed
 22 full time for ~~the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than
 23 ten (10) school years if, after working for three (3) years with national
 24 board certification as a classroom teacher, building-level principal, or
 25 building-level assistant principal in a public school district in this state,
 26 the teacher is employed as a teacher in an accredited teacher preparation
 27 program at a state-supported institution of higher education if funds are
 28 available after payments are made to those eligible under subdivisions
 29 (a)(3)(A)(iv)(a) and (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section.

30 (C) ~~The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive~~
 31 ~~set forth in subdivisions (a)(3)(A) and (B) of this section shall increase~~
 32 ~~yearly as follows:~~

33 (i) ~~The starting incentive bonus and the yearly~~
 34 ~~incentive for 2003 shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000);~~

35 (ii) ~~The starting incentive bonus and the yearly~~
 36 ~~incentive for 2004 shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000); and~~

1 ~~(iii) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly~~
2 ~~incentive for 2005 and each year thereafter shall be five thousand dollars~~
3 ~~(\$5,000). No person shall receive a yearly incentive bonus under this~~
4 ~~subsection for any school year after the expiration date of the national~~
5 ~~board certificate held by the person as of December 30, 2017.~~

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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(d), concerning bonus funding for
8 speech-language pathologists, is amended to read as follows:

9 ~~(d)(1) As used in this subsection, "speech language pathologist" means~~
10 ~~a speech language pathologist who:~~

11 ~~(A) Has a master's degree, which includes medical-based~~
12 ~~training;~~

13 ~~(B) Has completed a one-year clinical fellowship;~~

14 ~~(C) Has passed the specialty area of the National Teachers~~
15 ~~Examination; and~~

16 ~~(D) Holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-~~
17 ~~Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.~~

18 ~~(2) By December 1 of each year, the department shall pay a~~
19 ~~yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to a speech language~~
20 ~~pathologist who:~~

21 ~~(A) Holds an Arkansas teaching license in speech language~~
22 ~~pathology;~~

23 ~~(B) Is a full-time employee of an Arkansas education~~
24 ~~service cooperative or public school district as a speech language~~
25 ~~pathologist at the time of receiving the bonus; and~~

26 ~~(C) Is not considered a purchased service contractor but~~
27 ~~may be employed under a teacher contract subject to renewal under § 6-17-~~
28 ~~1506.~~

29 ~~(3)(A)(i) Bonuses paid to a certified speech language~~
30 ~~pathologist under this subsection shall be paid from the funds appropriated~~
31 ~~and available for bonuses to speech language pathologists.~~

32 ~~(ii) If sufficient funds are not available to pay~~
33 ~~the full amount of the bonus to each certified speech language pathologist as~~
34 ~~provided under this section, the department may reduce the amount of the~~
35 ~~bonus for each qualified recipient proportionately as necessary to provide a~~
36 ~~bonus to each qualified speech language pathologist in an equal amount.~~

1 ~~(B) The cost and expenses related to training for or~~
2 ~~acquisition of the certificate shall not be funded through the program~~
3 ~~created under this section and § 6-17-412 but shall be the responsibility of~~
4 ~~the certified speech language pathologist.~~

5 ~~(4) Although a certified speech language pathologist entitled to~~
6 ~~a bonus under this subsection will hold a valid Arkansas teaching license in~~
7 ~~speech language pathology, references to “teacher” under this section shall~~
8 ~~mean a classroom teacher as defined under § 6-17-412(a)(1) who is in the~~
9 ~~program but not a certified speech language pathologist.~~

10 ~~(5)(A)(i) If a speech language pathologist who receives a bonus~~
11 ~~under this subsection leaves employment in the Arkansas public school system~~
12 ~~before completing three (3) continuous school years of employment, the~~
13 ~~speech language pathologist shall repay the department a prorated portion of~~
14 ~~the bonus received in the school year based on a daily rate for the remainder~~
15 ~~of a school year in which the speech language pathologist leaves employment.~~

16 ~~(ii) The first year of the three (3) continuous~~
17 ~~school years is the first year that the speech language pathologist received~~
18 ~~a bonus under this subsection (d).~~

19 ~~(iii) The daily rate is calculated as the amount of~~
20 ~~the annual bonus paid to the speech language pathologist divided by the~~
21 ~~number of days in the speech language pathologist’s contract.~~

22 ~~(B) The State Board of Education may suspend the Arkansas~~
23 ~~speech language pathology license of any person who fails to repay the amount~~
24 ~~of the bonus required to be repaid under this subdivision (d)(5).~~

25 ~~(C) Repayment of all or a portion of a bonus under this~~
26 ~~subdivision (d)(5) is not required if, due to the death or disability of the~~
27 ~~speech language pathologist or other extenuating circumstances as may be~~
28 ~~recognized by the State Board of Education, the speech language pathologist~~
29 ~~does not remain employed in the Arkansas public school system for three (3)~~
30 ~~continuous school years after first receiving the bonus under this~~
31 ~~subsection. The department shall pay a yearly incentive bonus to a person~~
32 ~~who:~~

33 ~~(A) Holds national board certification; and~~

34 ~~(B) Is, at the time of receiving the bonus, employed full-~~
35 ~~time in a high-poverty school or high-poverty charter school as a:~~

36 ~~(i) Classroom teacher;~~

1 (ii) Instructional facilitator; or

2 (iii) Instructional leader.

3 (2) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be:

4 (A) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a person who is, at
5 the time of receiving the bonus, employed full-time in a high-poverty school
6 that is not in a high-poverty district; or

7 (B) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a person who is, at
8 the time of receiving the bonus, employed full time in a:

9 (i) High-poverty school in a high-poverty district;

10 or

11 (ii) High-poverty charter school.

12 (3) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be
13 limited as follows:

14 (A) A person shall not receive a five thousand dollar
15 (\$5,000) bonus under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of this section in more than five
16 (5) school years;

17 (B) A person shall not receive a ten thousand dollar
18 (\$10,000) bonus under subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this section in more than ten
19 (10) school years;

20 (C) A person shall not receive any yearly incentive bonus
21 under this subsection in more than ten (10) school years;

22 (D) A person shall not receive in the same school year
23 both a five thousand dollar (\$5,000) bonus under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of
24 this section and a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) bonus under subdivision
25 (d)(2)(B) of this section; and

26 (E)(i) A person shall not receive in the same school year
27 both a bonus under this subsection and a bonus under subsection (a) of this
28 section.

29 (ii) A person who, as of December 1, 2017, meets the
30 qualifications for a yearly incentive bonus under both this subsection and
31 subsection (a) of this section may make an irrevocable election to receive
32 future yearly incentive bonuses under this subsection by filing a written
33 election with the department no later than July 1, 2019.

34 (e) As used in this section:

35 (1) “High-poverty charter school” means an Arkansas open-
36 enrollment public charter school in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of

1 the previous school year’s enrolled students are national school lunch
2 students as defined in § 6-20-2303;

3 (2) “High-poverty district” means an Arkansas public school
4 district in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school
5 year’s enrolled students are national school lunch students as defined in §
6 6-20-2303;

7 (3) “High-poverty school” means an Arkansas public school in
8 which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school year’s enrolled
9 students are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303; and

10 (4)(A) “Instructional leader” means a building-level
11 administrator who is responsible for evaluating teachers or instructional
12 staff.

13 (B) “Instructional leader” includes without limitation a
14 building-level administrator who is an evaluator as defined in § 6-17-2803.

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