



Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

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10400SB3598sam001

LRB104 19018 LNS 37085 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3598

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 3598 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 21B-70 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

7 Sec. 21B-70. Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Cohort" means a group of candidates for National Board
10 certification who are organized for the purpose of
11 participating in a structured support program, including
12 facilitated professional development, mentoring, and
13 collaborative learning.

14 "Diverse candidate" means a candidate who identifies with
15 any of the ethnicities reported on the Illinois Report Card
16 other than White.

1 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public school that (i) is
2 identified as hard-to-staff based on data reported on its
3 school report card under Section 10-17a of this Code or (ii)
4 does not have a school report card under Section 10-17a of this
5 Code but serves a student population in which ~~no less than~~ 30%
6 or more of the student enrollment is considered low-income as
7 determined by the State Board of Education using available
8 enrollment or funding data ~~reported by the report card under~~
9 ~~Section 10-17a of this Code.~~

10 "National Board certification" means a voluntary, advanced
11 teaching credential that exceeds State licensure requirements
12 and is awarded to teachers who meet rigorous national
13 standards for accomplished teaching practice established by
14 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards through
15 a comprehensive, performance-based assessment process. A
16 teacher who holds such certification may be referred to as a
17 "National Board certified teacher" under this Section.

18 "National Board certified teacher candidate cohort
19 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
20 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting all other
21 candidate cohorts other than diverse candidate cohorts through
22 the Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching
23 Standards Comprehensive Support System.

24 "National Board certified teacher diverse candidate cohort
25 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
26 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting racially and

1 ethnically diverse candidates through the Illinois National
2 Board for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive
3 Support System.

4 "National Board certified teacher diverse liaison" means
5 an individual or entity that supports the National Board
6 certified teacher leading a diverse candidate cohort.

7 "National Board certified teacher liaison" means an
8 individual or entity that supports the National Board
9 certified teacher leading candidate cohorts other than diverse
10 candidate cohorts.

11 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
12 distant candidate cohort facilitator" means a National Board
13 certified teacher who collaborates to advance the goal of
14 supporting rural or remote candidates through the Illinois
15 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
16 Comprehensive Support System.

17 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
18 distant liaison" means an individual or entity that supports
19 the National Board certified teacher leading a rural or remote
20 candidate cohort.

21 "Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor
22 currently employed in a school district who is in the process
23 of obtaining certification through the National Board for
24 Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed
25 certification and holds a current Professional Educator
26 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching

1 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor
2 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National
3 Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

4 "Rural or remote" or "rural or remote or distant" means
5 local codes 32, 33, 41, 42, and 43 of the New Urban-Centric
6 Locale Codes, as defined by the National Center for Education
7 Statistics.

8 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section
9 18-8.15.

10 "Tier 2" has the meaning given to that term under Section
11 18-8.15.

12 (a-5) A regional office of education or intermediate
13 service center may establish one cohort per county, except
14 that an additional cohort may be established if the number of
15 candidates exceeds 20 participants in a single cohort. A
16 cohort shall include no more than 20 candidates.

17 A school district or individual school may establish a
18 cohort if at least 3 candidates are enrolled. The State Board
19 of Education or its designee may provide or approve a
20 qualified facilitator for such a cohort. If a qualified
21 facilitator is not available locally, the State Board of
22 Education or its designee may (i) provide a facilitator
23 through a virtual format or (ii) assign candidates to an
24 existing cohort operated by a regional office of education, an
25 intermediate service center, or another approved provider,
26 including a virtual cohort.

1 (b) Any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching
2 Excellence Program must be used to provide monetary assistance
3 and incentives for qualified educators who are employed by or
4 retired from school districts and who have or are in the
5 process of obtaining certification ~~licensure~~ through the
6 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The goal
7 of the program is to improve instruction and student
8 performance.

9 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as
10 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois
11 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application or re-take
12 fees for each qualified educator seeking to complete
13 certification through the National Board for Professional
14 Teaching Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board
15 for Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives under
16 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) for each
17 qualified educator, to be distributed to the respective school
18 district, and incentives under paragraph (5) of subsection
19 (c), to be distributed to the respective school district or
20 directly to the qualified educator. The school district shall
21 distribute this payment to each eligible teacher or school
22 counselor as a single payment.

23 The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out
24 by separate line item the appropriation for the program.
25 Unless otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified
26 educators are eligible for monetary assistance and incentives

1 outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of this Section.

2 (c) When there are adequate funds available, monetary
3 assistance and incentives shall include the following:

4 (1) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
5 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a Tier 1
6 school district who apply on a first-come, first-serve
7 basis for National Board certification.

8 (2) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
9 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a school
10 district other than a Tier 1 school district who apply on a
11 first-come, first-serve basis for National Board
12 certification.

13 (3) A maximum of \$1,000 toward the National Board for
14 Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.

15 (3.5) An annual retention bonus of \$4,000 awarded for
16 5 consecutive school years to a National Board certified
17 teacher who is employed in a hard-to-staff school in this
18 State. To be eligible for this retention bonus in a given
19 school year, a National Board certified teacher must (i)
20 be employed on a full-time basis as a teacher or school
21 counselor in a public school in this State for the entire
22 school year, (ii) hold a valid and active certificate
23 issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching
24 Standards, and (iii) be assigned for the full school year
25 to a school designated as hard-to-staff at the time of
26 initial qualification. A National Board certified teacher

1 who qualifies for this retention bonus remains eligible to
2 receive the bonus for the full 5-year award period,
3 notwithstanding a subsequent change in the school's
4 hard-to-staff designation, as long as the teacher remains
5 continuously employed at the same school or a different
6 hard-to-staff school. Eligibility for this retention bonus
7 terminates if the National Board certified teacher (i)
8 ceases to be employed full-time in a public school in this
9 State or (ii) accepts employment at a school that is not
10 designated as a hard-to-staff school. The State Board of
11 Education may not deny a National Board certified teacher
12 this retention bonus solely because the public school at
13 which the teacher is employed does not have a school
14 report card under Section 10-17a of this Code.

15 Retention bonus funds shall be distributed on a
16 first-come, first-served basis. In any fiscal year in
17 which appropriated funds are insufficient to award all
18 eligible National Board certified teachers a retention
19 bonus, those eligible applicants who do not receive a
20 retention bonus shall be given priority consideration for
21 the subsequent fiscal year, in the order of their original
22 application.

23 (4) (Blank).

24 (5) An annual incentive of no more than \$2,250
25 prorated at \$50 per hour, which shall be paid to each
26 qualified educator currently employed in a school district

1 who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching
2 Standards designation and a current corresponding
3 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional
4 Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide
5 up to 45 hours of mentoring or National Board for
6 Professional Teaching Standards professional development
7 or both during the school year to classroom teachers or
8 school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be disbursed
9 on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to
10 Tier 1 school districts. Mentoring shall include, either
11 singly or in combination, the following:

12 (A) National Board for Professional Teaching
13 Standards certification candidates.

14 (B) National Board for Professional Teaching
15 Standards re-take candidates.

16 (C) National Board for Professional Teaching
17 Standards renewal candidates.

18 (D) (Blank).

19 ~~Funds may also be used for professional development~~
20 ~~training provided by the National Board Resource Center.~~

21 ~~Funds may also be used for instructional leadership~~
22 ~~training for qualified educators interested in supporting~~
23 ~~implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards or teaching~~
24 ~~and learning priorities of the State Board of Education or~~
25 ~~both.~~

26 (d) In addition to the monetary assistance and incentives

1 provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds are
2 available, incentives shall include the following incentives
3 for the program in rural or remote schools or school districts
4 or for programs working with diverse candidates ~~or for~~
5 ~~retention bonuses for hard to staff schools~~, to be distributed
6 to the respective school district or directly to the qualified
7 educator or entity:

8 (1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National
9 Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 or Tier 2
10 rural or remote school districts or rural or remote
11 schools in Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts, with
12 priority given to teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or
13 remote school districts or rural or remote schools in Tier
14 1 school districts.

15 (2) An annual incentive of \$3,200 for National Board
16 certified teacher rural or remote or distant candidate
17 cohort facilitators, diverse candidate cohort
18 facilitators, and candidate cohort facilitators. Priority
19 shall be given to rural or remote candidate cohort
20 facilitators and diverse candidate cohort facilitators.

21 (3) An annual incentive of \$2,500 for National Board
22 certified teacher rural or remote or distant liaisons,
23 diverse liaisons, and liaisons. Priority shall be given to
24 rural or remote liaisons and diverse liaisons.

25 (4) (Blank). ~~An annual retention bonus of \$4,000 per~~
26 ~~year for 2 consecutive years shall be awarded to National~~

~~Board certified teachers employed in hard-to-staff schools. Funds must be disbursed on a first come, first served basis.~~

(e) Teachers who hold both a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation and a current corresponding certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall be encouraged to participate in other mentoring programs.

(f) A school district may award lane placement credit on the salary schedule to a teacher who is a National Board certified teacher or a candidate for National Board certification for participation in professional development associated with a National Board support program. Such credit may be applied toward advancement on the school district's salary schedule in accordance with the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement or district policy.

(Source: P.A. 103-122, eff. 6-30-23; 103-207, eff. 1-1-24; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law."