

1 AN ACT concerning teacher incentives.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.131 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.131 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.131. Quality teacher incentive program.

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall implement and  
9 administer a quality teacher incentive program. Under this  
10 program, the State Board of Education shall provide, from  
11 appropriations made for the purposes of this Section, a  
12 signing bonus of \$1,500 to each eligible teacher.

13 (b) A teacher is eligible under this program if the  
14 person has graduated from a regionally accredited institution  
15 in the top 25% of his or her class, has an Initial Teaching  
16 Certificate, and agrees to teach for a minimum of 3  
17 consecutive years in a public school in this State that is on  
18 the State Board of Education's financial watch list.

19 (c) A teacher who has received a signing bonus under  
20 this program and leaves employment with the public school  
21 before the end of the 3-year commitment must reimburse the  
22 State in the amount of \$1,500, unless the teacher has left to  
23 accept a teaching position with another public school in this  
24 State that is on the financial watch list.

25 (d) A teacher who receives a signing bonus under this  
26 program shall not be deemed an employee of the State.

27 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
28 necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this  
29 Section.

30 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on

1 July 1, 2003.