



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #770

National Teacher Certification Reestimate (DPI -- Administrative and Other Funding)

[LFB 2001-03 Budget Summary: Page 562, #4]

CURRENT LAW

DPI is required to award a grant to any person who does all of the following: (a) is certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS); (b) is licensed as a teacher by the State Superintendent or employed as a teacher in a private school; (c) is a resident of this state; (d) is employed as a teacher in this state. The grant must equal the costs of obtaining certification, not to exceed \$2,000, in the school year in which the person is certified, or if not a resident at the time of certification, in the first school year in which the person meets the requirements. In addition, the grant recipient receives \$2,500 in each of the nine school years following the school year in which he or she received the initial grant if the person does all of the following: (a) maintains national certification; (b) maintains state license or employment in a private school; (c) remains a resident of this state; and (d) remains employed as a teacher in this state. In 2000-01 \$85,000 GPR is provided for the program, which is paid from a sum sufficient appropriation established for this purpose.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$130,000 in 2001-02 and \$255,000 in 2002-03 to fully fund awards for teachers earning certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Modify the current grant program for national certification in the following manner: (a) delete the requirement that a person be a resident of this state; and (b) clarify the language governing the dispersal of subsequent annual \$2,500 grants. A person would still have to satisfy the other current requirements in order to receive an initial grant and subsequent grants.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Created in 1987, the NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member board of directors. The mission of the NBPTS is to: (a) establish rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; (b) develop and operate a national, voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards; and (c) advance related educational reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.

2. Two Wisconsin teachers were certified by the NBPTS in 1998-99 and 10 in 1999-00. For 2000-01, however, only nine teachers are continuing in the program. Also, 23 were newly certified for 2000-01. While 50 teachers are in the certification program currently, DPI estimates that only 25 to 30 will likely be certified for 2001-02 and that 50 more teachers will be certified in 2002-03. It is estimated that the NBPTS will reimburse newly certified teachers \$700 each, making the state's payment \$1,300 annually for newly certified teachers.

3. For 2001-02, it is estimated that DPI will pay \$2,500 to each of the 32 continuing teachers and \$1,300 to a projected 30 teachers gaining certification for that year, for a total of \$119,000 to fully fund awards in 2001-02. For 2002-03, assuming 50 teachers are newly certified, a total of \$220,000 would be necessary to fully fund awards for teachers earning national certification.

4. DPI's recent changes to teacher licensing rules include the acquisition of NBPTS certification as a possible way to obtain certification at the master teacher level. DPI expects this further incentive to continue to increase the number of applicants for this grant.

5. The Governor recommends deleting the requirement that a person be a resident of the state in order to receive a grant, so that persons employed in Wisconsin schools but residing in another state would be eligible if they meet the other requirements for the program. Since the person would have to teach in Wisconsin in order to qualify for grants, Wisconsin pupils would benefit from their employment regardless of their state of residence.

ALTERNATIVES TO BASE

A. Estimated Funding

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$130,000 in 2001-02 and \$255,000 in 2002-03 above the base level of \$85,000 for national certification grants.

Alternative A1	GPR
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Base)	\$385,000
[Change to Bill]	\$0

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to provide \$34,000 in 2001-02 and \$135,000 in 2002-03 above the base level of \$85,000 to fully fund national certification grants.

<u>Alternative A2</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Base)	\$169,000
<i>[Change to Bill]</i>	<i>-\$216,000]</i>

B. Delete State Resident Requirement

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to delete the requirement that a person be a resident of this state in order to receive a grant.
2. Take no action.

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