Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB1129 **Patron:** Boysko

Bill Title: National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility; incentive

grant awards.

Bill Summary: Renames the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund as the National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund, expands eligibility for incentive grant awards from such Fund pursuant to such Program from solely teachers who have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to (i) all public school staff who are candidates for initial national certification or maintenance of national certification to cover certain costs of obtaining or maintaining such certification and (ii) all public school staff who have successfully obtained or maintained such certification. The bill also declares as eligible for an annual incentive grant award in the amount of \$7,500 all public school staff who have obtained or maintained such certification and an additional \$2,500 in any year during the life of certificate in which the public school staff member is employed in a Title 1 school. Current law declares as eligible for an annual incentive grant award of \$5,000 in the first year and \$2,500 in each subsequent year all teachers who have obtained or maintained such certification.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 124

Explanation: This bill increases the award for bonuses for National Board Certification, which would

require additional funding. A budget language amendment would also be necessary to

implement the provisions of this bill.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates that an additional \$7,494,500 general fund beginning in FY26 would be required to fund the increase in the base award to \$7,500 and to cover fees to obtain or maintain board certification. At this time the cost to provide additional \$2,500 awards to public school staff in Title I schools is indeterminate. Any impact in future years is indeterminate and would depend on actual increases to the award amount and the number of public school staff who obtain certification.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
197 (Direct Aid)	\$0	Minimum of \$7,494,500	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate
TOTAL	\$0	Minimum of \$7,494,500	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate

Fiscal Analysis: The Governor's Introduced budget, HB1600/SB800 provides \$4,997,500 general fund each year to award bonuses to teachers or public school staff members that have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and to support certification fees for candidates

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working in Title I schools who are pursuing certification. In order to implement the provisions of this bill, a budget language amendment would be necessary in Item 124 to update the requirements for the existing awards.

This bill would establish a \$7,500 award for all public school staff that have been initially awarded or maintained their National Board Certification and a \$2,500 add on for staff employed in Title I schools. Currently \$5,000 initial awards and \$2,500 continuing awards are funded. The Department of Education (DOE)'s data collection for National Board Certification Candidates for the 2024-2025 school year (FY25) is not expected to be complete until February, therefore estimates are based on the number of teachers who received awards in the 2023-2024 school year (FY24). Based on that data, DOE estimates that a total of \$12,262,500 general fund would be required in FY26 to increase all initial and continuing awards to \$7,500, which would require an increase of \$7,265,000 general fund above what is appropriated in HB1600/SB800. DOE does not currently have data on the number of Nationally Board Certified teachers in Title I schools, as the state support for certification fees for Title I candidates was added beginning FY25, so this data was not part of the 2023-2024 data collection. Therefore, DOE is not able to estimate at this time the cost for the \$2,500 add on, but additional funding would be required.

The bill also directs that candidates that are pursing national certification may apply for a grant to cover the costs of the initial national certification fee and that candidates pursuing maintenance of national certification (MOC) may apply for a grant to cover the total MOC fee. Based on the total number of new and continuing awards in the 2023-2024 school year and an initial fee of \$2,125 and MOC fee of \$507, DOE estimates that an additional \$229,500 general fund would be required beginning in FY26. Any impact in future years is indeterminate and would depend on the number of teachers seeking certification and the fees set by National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The bill directs that the amount of the award shall be increased during the biennial rebenchmarking process to ensure that its value does not erode due to inflation. Any increases in the award amount in future years would require additional funding but any amounts are indeterminate at this time and would depend on the adjustment during benchmarking.

Other: This bill is identical to HB2381 as introduced. This fiscal impact statement was revised to adjust the general fund expenditure impact after accounting for existing appropriation in HB1600/SB800.