

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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State Fiscal Impact Statement

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 pursuing 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.