

26101216D

1 **SENATE BILL NO. 217**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 9, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-299.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to National Board Certification*  
5 *Incentive Reward Program and Fund; incentive grant awards.*

6 Patron—Boysko

7 Referred to Committee on Education and Health

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 22.1-299.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 22.1-299.2. National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund.**11 A. From such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose and from such gifts, donations, grants,  
12 bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby established the National Teacher  
13 Board Certification Incentive Reward Program (the "Program"), to be administered by the Board of  
14 Education, and a special nonreverting fund within the state treasury known as the National Teacher Board  
15 Certification Incentive Reward Program Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund shall be established on the books of the  
16 Comptroller, and any moneys remaining in the Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general  
17 fund but shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.18 The State Treasurer shall manage the Fund, subject to the authority of the Board of Education to provide  
19 for its disbursement. The Fund shall be disbursed to award incentive grants to public school teachers  
20 obtaining staff who have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching  
21 Standards or who are candidates for initial national certification or maintenance of national certification  
22 (MOC) from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to assist with the upfront costs of  
23 obtaining or maintaining such certification.24 To the extent funds are available in the Fund, teachers B. Any candidate who is pursuing initial national  
25 certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is eligible to apply to the  
26 Department for an incentive grant from the Fund pursuant to the Program to cover (i) half of the total initial  
27 national certification fee, equal to the sum of the cost of four components and the registration fee for initial  
28 national certification, to be disbursed upon initial registration for such certification and (ii) the remaining  
29 half of such total initial national certification fee to be disbursed upon successful achievement of initial  
30 national certification as verified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.31 C. Any candidate who is pursuing MOC from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is  
32 eligible to apply to the Department for an incentive grant from the Fund pursuant to the Program to cover  
33 the total MOC fee, equal to the sum of the cost of MOC and the registration fee for MOC, to be disbursed  
34 upon successful completion of the MOC process as verified by the National Board for Professional Teaching  
35 Standards.36 D. Any public school staff member who obtain has obtained national certification from the National Board  
37 for Professional Teaching Standards shall receive an initial state funded from the Fund pursuant to the  
38 Program (i) an incentive grant award of \$5,000 and a subsequent award of \$2,500 \$7,500 each year for the  
39 life of the certificate and (ii) an additional \$2,500 in any year during the life of certificate in which the public  
40 school staff member is employed in a Title 1 school. Each such amount shall be increased biennially during  
41 the rebenchmarking process to ensure that its value does not erode due to inflation. Such annual incentive  
42 grant awards shall continue to be paid upon renewal maintenance of the certificate. The Board shall establish  
43 procedures for determining amounts of awards if the moneys in the Fund are not sufficient to award each  
44 eligible teacher the appropriate award amount such certification.

45 E. The Board may issue guidelines governing the Program as it deems necessary and appropriate.

INTRODUCED

SB217