**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑26‑85, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT TEACHERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS SHALL RECEIVE A ONE‑TIME SEVENTY‑FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR SALARY SUPPLEMENT, BEGINNING ON JULY FIRST OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE YEAR THEY ACHIEVED CERTIFICATION FOR THE INITIAL TEN‑YEAR CERTIFICATION PERIOD; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SALARY SUPPLEMENT MUST BE ADJUSTED ON A PRO RATA BASIS FOR THE TEACHER’S FTE; TO PROVIDE THAT TEACHERS OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SCHOOLS ALSO ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE SUPPLEMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT UP TO ELEVEN HUNDRED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION LOAN APPLICATIONS MUST BE PROCESSED ANNUALLY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE LOAN PROGRAM; AND TO PROVIDE FOR LOAN REPAYMENT FOR TEACHERS WHO FAIL TO OBTAIN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑26‑85 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑26‑85. (A) Teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) shall enter a recertification cycle for their South Carolina certificate consistent with the recertification cycle for National Board certification and NBPTS certified teachers moving to this State are exempted from initial certification requirements and are eligible for continuing contract status and their recertification cycle will be consistent with National Board certification. ~~Teachers receiving~~ Beginning with 2009 applicants, teachers who receive national certification from the NBPTS shall receive ~~an increase in pay for the life of the certification. The pay increase shall be determined annually in the appropriations act~~ a one‑time seventy‑five hundred dollar salary supplement beginning July first of the year following the year the teacher receives certification. The salary supplement only must be paid for the initial ten‑year certification period. The established amount ~~shall~~ must be added to the annual pay of the nationally certified teacher. In calculating the compensation for teacher specialists, the State Department of Education shall include state and local compensation as defined in Section 59‑18‑1530 to include local supplements except local supplements for national board certification. Teacher specialists remain eligible for state supplement for National Board certification. However, the salary supplement must be adjusted on a pro rata basis for the teacher’s FTE and paid to the teacher in accordance with the district’s payroll procedure. Teachers employed by the Governor’s School for Science and Math, Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, John de la Howe School, School for the Deaf and Blind, Felton Lab, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Palmetto United School District 1 also are eligible to receive the supplement.

(B) The Center for Teacher Recruitment shall develop guidelines and administer the programs whereby teachers applying to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for certification may receive a loan equal to the amount of the application fee. Up to eleven hundred loan applications must be processed annually. One‑half of the loan principal amount and interest ~~shall~~ must be forgiven when the required portfolio is submitted to the national board. Teachers ~~attaining~~ who attain certification within three years of receiving the loan ~~will~~ must have the full loan principal amount and interest forgiven. Of the funds appropriated for National Board certification, the State Department of Education shall transfer to the Center for Education Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement the funds necessary to administer the loan program. Teachers who begin the application process after July 1, 2007 and who teach in schools which have an absolute rating of below average or at‑risk at the time the teacher applies to the National Board for certification, but who fail to obtain certification, nonetheless are eligible for full forgiveness of the loan as follows: upon submission of all required materials for certification, one‑half of the loan principal amount and interest must be forgiven; forgiveness of the remainder of the loan must be forgiven at the rate of thirty‑three percent for each year of full‑time teaching in the same school regardless of whether that school exceeds an absolute rating of below average or at‑risk during the forgiveness period, or for each year of full‑time teaching in another school that has an absolute rating of below average or at‑risk. Funds collected from educators who are in default of the National Board certification loan must be retained and carried forward for National Board purposes.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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