

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

H

D

HOUSE DRH70378-LE-166A (3/6)

Short Title: Fellowships/National Bd. Certified Teachers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Carney and Dickson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR FELLOWSHIPS TO RECRUIT
3 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS TO TEACH AT HIGH-NEEDS
4 SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the
8 2008-2009 fiscal year for the National Board Certified Teacher Fellows Pilot Program.
9 The purpose of the program is to provide fellowships to recruit National Board Certified
10 Teachers to teach at high-needs schools. For the pilot program, the State Board shall
11 designate as high-needs schools those schools at which (i) a high percentage of students
12 are performing at Level 1 or Level 2 on end-of-grade or end-of-course tests, (ii) the
13 teacher turnover rate is very high, or (iii) there is a high percentage of students
14 qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches. It is the intent of the General Assembly to
15 fund this program at the same level for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fiscal years.

16 Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a National Board Certified
17 Teacher who agrees to teach for at least three years at a high-needs school at which no
18 National Board Certified Teachers currently teach and to provide support to National
19 Board candidates at that school shall receive a salary supplement of ten thousand dollars
20 (\$10,000) a year for each year he or she teaches at that high-needs school.

21 During the 2007-2008 school year the Department of Public Instruction shall
22 provide a list of the high-needs schools designated by the State Board and information
23 about the fellowships to local superintendents, principals, National Board Certified
24 Teachers, and teacher organizations and shall recruit National Board Certified Teachers
25 to participate in the program.

1 The State Board of Education shall develop policies necessary to implement
2 the National Board Certified Teacher Fellows Pilot Program, including policies related
3 to the three-year commitment required of the Fellows.

4 **SECTION 1.(b)** In accordance with G.S. 115C-325 and by way of
5 clarification, it shall not constitute a demotion as that term is defined in
6 G.S. 115C-325(a)(4) if:

7 (1) A teacher who receives a salary supplement pursuant to subsection (a)
8 of this section is reassigned to a school at which there is no such salary
9 supplement;

10 (2) A teacher who receives a salary supplement pursuant to subsection (a)
11 of this section moves to a different local school administrative unit; or

12 (3) A teacher receives a salary supplement pursuant to subsection (a) of
13 this section and the salary supplement is subsequently discontinued or
14 reduced.

15 **SECTION 2.** If a teacher employed by a local school administrative unit
16 makes a written request for a leave of absence to participate in the National Board
17 Certified Teacher Fellows Pilot Program, the local school administrative unit shall grant
18 the leave for three years. For the initial year of the teacher's participation in the
19 program, the local school administrative unit may require that the request for a leave of
20 absence be made up to 45 days before the teacher would otherwise have to report for
21 duty. After the initial year of the teacher's participation in the program, the local school
22 administrative unit may require that the request for a leave of absence be made up to 90
23 days before the teacher would otherwise have to report for duty. A teacher who has
24 career status under G.S. 115C-325 prior to receiving a leave of absence to participate in
25 the program may return to a public school in the local school administrative unit with
26 career status at the end of the leave of absence or upon the end of participation in the
27 program if an appropriate position is available. If an appropriate position is unavailable,
28 the teacher's name shall be placed on a list of available teachers, and that teacher shall
29 have priority on all positions for which that teacher is qualified in accordance with
30 G.S. 115C-325(e)(2).

31 **SECTION 3.** The State Board shall report on its implementation of and
32 marketing plan for the pilot program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
33 Committee by December 15, 2007, and December 15, 2008. The report shall include the
34 impact the National Board Certified Teacher Fellows have had on the schools' working
35 conditions and on staff collaboration at the schools.

36 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.