

Senate Bill 178

By: Senators Clay of the 37th, Hamrick of the 30th and Thomas of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to conditions of employment of certain persons under the
3 Quality Basic Education Act, so as to provide for salary increases for certain persons
4 credentialed as National Certified School Counselors; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
9 Annotated, relating to conditions of employment of certain persons under the Quality Basic
10 Education Act, is amended by adding a new Code Section 20-2-212.4 to read as follows:

11 "20-2-212.4.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, 'national certification' means certification as a National
13 Certified School Counselor obtained from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

14 (b) Any person who:

15 (1) Is currently a school counselor in a Georgia public school and holds a valid Georgia
16 professional certificate in school counseling;

17 (2) Has completed three years of employment as a school counselor in Georgia public
18 schools prior to receiving national certification;

19 (3) Has not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in
20 the national certification program; and

21 (4) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national
22 certification

23 shall receive not less than a 10 percent rate increase in state salary. Such increase shall be
24 awarded on the commencement of the school year following such national certification.

25 The increase in state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other
26 increase for which the person is eligible.

- 1 (c) A school counselor shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the
2 documentation required for national certification.
- 3 (d) The national certification program participation fee shall be reimbursed by the state
4 upon certification for any school counselor who is eligible for an increase pursuant to
5 subsection (a) of this Code section.
- 6 (e) A school counselor for whom the State of Georgia pays the participation fee and who
7 does not counsel in a Georgia public school for at least one year after receiving national
8 certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is not required if the
9 school counselor is unable to complete the additional year of school counseling due to the
10 death or disability of the school counselor."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.