

Senate Bill 178

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in  
18 the national certification program; and

19 (3) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national  
20 certification

21 shall receive not less than a 10 percent rate increase annually in state salary for each year  
22 such person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded on the  
23 commencement of the school year following such national certification. The increase in  
24 state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other increase for  
25 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.