

Senate Bill 178

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

AS PASSED

**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 provide for salary increases for
5 certain school social workers who are certified as Certified School Social Worker Specialists;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
10 Annotated, relating to conditions of employment of certain persons under the "Quality Basic
11 Education Act," is amended by adding two new Code Sections 20-2-212.4 and 20-2-212.5
12 to read as follows:

13 "20-2-212.4.

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

16 (b) Any person who:

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

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

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

23 shall receive not less than a 10 percent rate increase annually in state salary for each year
24 such person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded on the
25 commencement of the school year following such national certification, and each such year
26 thereafter. The 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the state salary for such

1 individual for the school year when the increase is first awarded and recomputed each
 2 subsequent year based on the individual's state salary for that school year. The increase in
 3 state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other increase for
 4 which the person is eligible.

5 (c) A school counselor shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the
 6 documentation required for national certification.

7 (d) The national certification program participation fee shall be reimbursed by the state
 8 upon certification for any school counselor who is eligible for an increase pursuant to
 9 subsection (a) of this Code section.

10 (e) A school counselor for whom the State of Georgia pays the participation fee and who
 11 does not counsel in a Georgia public school for at least one year after receiving national
 12 certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is not required if the
 13 school counselor is unable to complete the additional year of school counseling due to the
 14 death or disability of the school counselor.

15 20-2-212.5.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, 'national certification' means certification as a Certified
 17 School Social Worker Specialist by the National Association of Social Workers.

18 (b) Any person who:

19 (1) Is currently a school social worker in a Georgia public school and holds a valid
 20 Georgia professional service certificate in school social work;

21 (2) Has completed three consecutive years of employment as a school social worker in
 22 Georgia public schools;

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

25 (4) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national
 26 certification

27 shall receive not less than a 10 percent increase annually in state salary for each year such
 28 person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded at the commencement
 29 of the school year following such national certification, and each such year thereafter. The
 30 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the state salary for such individual for the
 31 school year when the increase is first awarded and recomputed each subsequent year based
 32 on the individual's state salary for that school year. The increase in state salary provided
 33 by this Code section shall be in addition to any other increase for which the person is
 34 eligible.

35 (c) A school social worker shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the
 36 documentation required for national certification.

1 (d) The state shall reimburse a school social worker for the national certification program
2 participation fee upon certification if the school social worker is eligible for a salary
3 increase pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

4 (e) A school social worker for whom the State of Georgia pays the participation fee and
5 who does not serve as a social worker in a Georgia public school for at least one year after
6 receiving national certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is
7 not required if the school social worker is unable to complete the additional year of school
8 social work due to the death or disability of the school social worker."

9 **SECTION 2.**

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