

Senate Bill 472

By: Senators Clay of the 37th, Collins of the 6th and Tate of the 38th

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 from the National Board for Certified
5 School Counselors or the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; to repeal
6 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 a new Code Section 20-2-212.5 to read as follows:
12 "20-2-212.5.

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

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 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.