

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 243

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 certificated personnel in
3 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that only teachers currently receiving
4 salary increases for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification shall
5 be eligible for continuing increases; to provide for an exception for teachers enrolled in the
6 process as of March 1, 2009; to provide that if an individual leaves a teaching position, he
7 or she is no longer eligible for the salary increase; to provide that such increases are subject
8 to appropriations by the General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to repeal
9 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
13 Annotated, relating to conditions of employment of certificated personnel in elementary and
14 secondary education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-212.2, relating to salary
15 increases for persons receiving certification from the National Board for Professional
16 Teaching Standards, as follows:

17 "20-2-212.2.

18 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

19 (1) 'High-needs school' means a Georgia public school that has received an unacceptable
20 rating for a period of two or more consecutive years; and

21 (2) 'National certification' means certification obtained from the National Board for
22 Professional Teaching Standards.

23 (b) For initial national certification prior to July 1, 2006, and subsequent renewals anytime
24 thereafter,

25 (1) Any person who:

26 (A) Is currently teaching full time in a Georgia public school and holds a valid Georgia
27 teaching certificate; and

28 (B) Has successfully completed the prerequisite portfolio of student work and
29 examination and has received national certification

30 shall receive not less than a 10 percent rate increase in state salary for each year he or she
31 holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded beginning on the date such
32 certification is received. The 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the starting
33 state salary when national certification is received and recomputed each subsequent year
34 based on the starting state salary for that school year. In the case of a person who has
35 received such national certification prior to July 1, 2000, and is receiving or is eligible
36 to receive a 5 percent rate increase, the 5 percent rate increase shall be changed to a 10
37 percent rate increase effective with the commencement of the 2000-2001 school year.
38 The increase in state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other
39 increase for which the person is eligible. An individual receiving a salary increase
40 pursuant to this subsection shall cease to receive such increase if he or she leaves a
41 teaching position after March 1, 2009. This subsection shall be subject to appropriations
42 by the General Assembly.

43 ~~(2) A teacher shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the portfolio~~
44 ~~of student work required for national certification.~~

45 ~~(3) A portion of the national certification program participation fee may be paid by the~~
46 ~~state prior to certification for any person who:~~

47 ~~(A) Is currently teaching in a Georgia public school and holds a valid Georgia teaching~~
48 ~~certificate;~~

49 ~~(B) Has submitted an application and the initial qualifying payment to the National~~
50 ~~Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and~~

51 ~~(C) Has successfully completed a screening process developed by the Professional~~
52 ~~Standards Commission.~~

53 ~~(4)~~(2) A teacher for whom the State of Georgia pays a portion of the national
54 certification participation fee and who does not teach in a Georgia public school for at
55 least one year after receiving certification shall repay the state's portion of the
56 participation fee to the state. Repayment is not required if the teacher is unable to
57 complete the additional year of teaching due to the death or disability of the teacher, and
58 repayment is not required if the teacher fails to receive national board certification.

59 ~~(5)~~(3) The portion of the national certification program participation fee paid by the
60 participant shall be reimbursed by the state upon certification for any teacher who is
61 eligible for an increase pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. This paragraph shall
62 be subject to appropriations by the General Assembly.

63 ~~(6)~~(4) A teacher for whom the State of Georgia reimburses the cost of the participation
 64 fee and who does not teach in a Georgia public school for at least one year after receiving
 65 certification shall repay the reimbursement payment to the state. Repayment is not
 66 required if the teacher is unable to complete the additional year of teaching due to the
 67 death or disability of the teacher.

68 (b.1) Any person who has enrolled in the process, as determined by the Professional
 69 Standards Commission, of attaining national certification on or before March 1, 2005, and
 70 who obtains initial certification and subsequent renewals after July 1, 2006, shall be
 71 eligible for salary increases, subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, pursuant
 72 to subsection (b) of this Code section if such person otherwise meets the requirements of
 73 subsection (b) of this Code section.

74 (c) Except as provided for in ~~subsection~~ subsections (b.1) and (c.1) of this Code section,
 75 for initial national certification ~~on and after~~ between July 1, 2006, and March 1, 2009, and
 76 subsequent renewals anytime thereafter,

77 (1) Any person who:

78 (A) Is currently teaching full time in a high-needs school and holds a valid Georgia
 79 teaching certificate as defined by the Professional Standards Commission; and

80 (B) Has successfully completed the prerequisite portfolio of student work and
 81 examination and has received national certification

82 shall receive not less than a 10 percent rate increase in state salary for each year he or she
 83 holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded beginning on the date such
 84 certification is received. The 10 percent increase shall be computed based on the starting
 85 state salary when national certification is received. A teacher who transfers to a
 86 high-needs school after such individual receives national certification shall receive such
 87 increase beginning on the effective date of transfer if the teacher meets the requirements
 88 of this subsection, and such increase shall be computed based on the starting state salary
 89 on the effective date of the transfer. Provided such individual remains employed in a
 90 high-needs school or in a school that was designated as a high-needs school at the time
 91 the individual received national certification or transferred to such school and otherwise
 92 continues to meet the requirements of this subsection, the 10 percent increase shall be
 93 recomputed each subsequent year based on the starting state salary for that school year.
 94 An individual receiving a salary increase pursuant to this subsection shall cease to receive
 95 such increase if he or she leaves a teaching position after March 1, 2009. This subsection
 96 shall be subject to appropriations by the General Assembly.

97 ~~(2) A teacher shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the portfolio~~
 98 ~~of student work required for national certification.~~

