

WHEREAS, The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards provides a fair and legitimate means of recognizing teacher excellence, that includes the development of a school-site portfolio and participation in assessment activities, that will result in improved student learning; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the State will benefit from a program of State and local aid that provides financial assistance to Maryland teachers seeking certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

6-112.

(A) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF STATE AND LOCAL AID TO TEACHERS WHO PURSUE CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS KNOWN AS THE STATE AND LOCAL AID PILOT PROGRAM FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS.

(B) EACH SCHOOL YEAR, THE STATE BOARD SHALL SELECT, CONSISTENT WITH THE AMOUNT PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM, A MAXIMUM OF 48 TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

- (1) PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR AID; AND
- (2) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF AID.

(D) (1) EACH TEACHER SELECTED BY THE STATE BOARD TO RECEIVE AID SHALL RECEIVE FROM THE STATE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE CERTIFICATION FEE CHARGED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS.

(2) EACH COUNTY SHALL PAY TO THE STATE ONE-THIRD OF THE COST OF CERTIFICATION FOR EACH TEACHER WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PILOT PROGRAM WHO TEACHES IN THE COUNTY.

(3) (I) A TEACHER WHO DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS SHALL REIMBURSE THE STATE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AID RECEIVED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(II) THE STATE SHALL REIMBURSE THE COUNTY THE AMOUNT RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON RECEIPT OF THE REIMBURSEMENT OF AID FROM A TEACHER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.