

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] 300 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 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.

(iii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to a teacher who completes all the requirements for assessment by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards but who does not receive certification.

(e) The State Board shall establish a statewide staff development plan that utilizes the skills and knowledge of teachers who have obtained National Board certification.

Chapter 179 of the Acts of 1997

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect on June 1, 1997. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 7 years, and, at the end of