

Senator Jesse Bjorkman

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SENATE BILL 215

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Teachers: Board Certification Incentive

Senate Bill 215 is designed to incentivize the most highly qualified teachers to remain in the State of Alaska. The National Board of Certified Teachers is a board that requires its members to undergo a rigorous and deeply personal training program. Teachers are required to demonstrate their content knowledge, their ability to teach to every student and their needs, demonstrate through recordings and reflections their ability to improve upon their teaching style, and to show that they are effectively implementing those improvements.

It is this sort of teacher that is most capable of teaching the highly diverse group of students we have in our State. As our school districts look at a variety of issues regarding recruitment and retention of teachers, as well as poor educational outcomes for students, please consider this piece of legislation, as it has the potential to retain teachers already certified, and to encourage more teachers to undergo the rigorous process of attaining that certification.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation for the benefit of both the teachers and students of this state.