

SENATE BILL NO. 83

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/4/11

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act providing for payment and loan incentives to public school teachers for**
2 **national board certification."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to article 3 to read:

5 **Sec. 14.20.225. Incentive and stipend payments for national board**
6 **certification.** (a) A school district or the department, as applicable, shall in January of
7 each year pay an incentive payment of \$1,000 to each teacher who is employed by the
8 district or the department and who holds a current and valid national board
9 certification.

10 (b) In addition to the incentive payment provided in (a) of this section, for a
11 teacher who is employed by a district to teach in a school that is located in a high
12 poverty attendance area and that has received a low performance rating, as determined
13 by the department, a school district shall,

14 (1) if the teacher holds a current and valid national board certification,

1 annually pay a supplemental incentive payment of \$500; or

2 (2) if a teacher is not national board certified, annually pay the national
3 certification board an amount that is not more than \$1,000 to be used toward national
4 certification of the teacher for the period in which the teacher is actively seeking
5 national board certification.

6 (c) The department shall provide sufficient funding, subject to appropriation
7 and in addition to the state aid received under AS 14.17, to a school district to make
8 national board certification incentive payments as provided in this section. The
9 department may establish a form and procedure to be used by a school district to
10 request teacher incentive and stipend payments, including proof of actively pursuing
11 national board certification.

12 (d) In this section,

13 (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

14 (2) "national board certification" means individual achievement of
15 national professional teaching standards as certified by a nationally recognized board.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

17 **Article 9A. National Board Teacher Certification Loan Program.**

18 **Sec. 14.43.550. Program established.** The national board teacher certification
19 loan program is established to provide an incentive for teachers employed by a public
20 school district in the state or a school operated by the department to pursue
21 certification of professional teaching standards by a nationally recognized board.

22 **Sec. 14.43.555. Administration and eligibility.** (a) The national board teacher
23 certification loan program shall be administered by the commission in accordance with
24 regulations adopted by the commission. The commission shall

25 (1) provide on behalf of eligible teachers loan awards of a lump sum of
26 \$2,500 for each teacher, to be repaid over three years at zero percent interest;

27 (2) allocate the loan awards available for national board teacher
28 certification annually to the department for loans on behalf of teachers employed by
29 the department who teach in a public school and to the school district for loans to
30 teachers employed by the district;

31 (3) develop and distribute to the department and to the districts an

1 application form for teacher certification loans under this section.

2 (b) A teacher is eligible to receive the benefit of a national board teacher
3 certification loan if the teacher is currently

4 (1) employed by the department or a public school district and teaches
5 students who are in grades kindergarten through 12;

6 (2) actively pursuing national certification of professional teaching
7 standards awarded by a nationally recognized board; and

8 (3) signs an agreement provided by the commission to secure
9 repayment of the loan within three years.

10 (c) For a loan awarded under this section, the commission shall

11 (1) make quarterly payments to the national teacher certification board
12 on behalf of an eligible teacher;

13 (2) establish conditions for repayment;

14 (3) provide for penalties for default; and

15 (4) pro rate the amount of the award if insufficient funding is available
16 to provide awards on behalf of all eligible teachers in a fiscal year.

17 (d) In making loans under this section, the commission shall apply the
18 standards used by the department under AS 14.20.225(c) for determining what
19 constitutes actively pursuing national certification.

20 **Sec. 14.43.590. Definitions.** In AS 14.43.550 - 14.43.590,

21 (1) "department" means the Department of Education and Early
22 Development;

23 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.