

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2135

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the Education Standards and Practices Board)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for national certification of teachers; and to provide an
2 appropriation.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. Definitions.** As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 1. "Board" means the education standards and practices board.
6 2. "Certification" means national board certification as provided by the national board.
7 3. "National board" means the national board for professional teaching standards.

8 **SECTION 2. Board duties.** The board shall:

- 9 1. Inform teachers of the national board certification program and the scholarships
10 and services the national board provides to teachers seeking certification.
11 2. Collect and review in the order received scholarship applications from individuals
12 who are licensed to teach by the board or approved to teach by the board.
13 3. a. Approve no more than seventeen applications;
14 b. During the first year of the biennium, reserve three of the available
15 scholarships for individuals teaching at low-performing schools, provided that
16 if the scholarships are not awarded to individuals teaching at low-performing
17 schools during the first year of the biennium, the board may award the
18 scholarships to other eligible applicants; and
19 c. During the first year of the biennium, award no more than two of the
20 remaining fourteen available scholarships to applicants employed by the
21 same school district, provided that this restriction does not apply to
22 scholarships awarded during the second year of the biennium.
23 4. Ensure that all scholarship recipients receive adequate information regarding the
24 level of commitment required to acquire certification.

- 1 5. Assist with the assessment costs of certification with a scholarship of one
- 2 thousand one hundred fifty dollars for each of the seventeen eligible applicants.
- 3 6. Provide at the conclusion of each of the first four full school years after the
- 4 individual obtains the certification, an additional one thousand five hundred dollars
- 5 stipend, if:
- 6 a. The individual served during the school year as a full-time classroom teacher
- 7 in a public or nonpublic school in this state; and
- 8 b. The individual participated in efforts of the employing school or school district
- 9 to develop and implement teacher mentoring programs and teacher
- 10 evaluation programs.
- 11 7. If any individual who receives a scholarship under this section does not complete
- 12 the certification process within the time allotted by the board, the individual must
- 13 reimburse the state an amount equal to one-half of the amount awarded to the
- 14 individual as a scholarship.

15 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the

16 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of sixty thousand nine

17 hundred dollars, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the education standards and

18 practices board for the purpose of making grants to assist teachers in obtaining certification, for

19 the biennium beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2005.

20 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the

21 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of sixteen thousand

22 dollars, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the education standards and practices

23 board for the purpose of paying a one-time stipend of two thousand dollars to each of the eight

24 educators in North Dakota who has previously received certification, for the biennium beginning

25 July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2005.