
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1965

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ericks, Strow, Haler, Linville, O'Brien, Santos and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition and fee assistance for teachers seeking
2 additional education; adding a new section to chapter 28A.405 RCW; and
3 creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students benefit
6 most from great teachers who are well-educated and knowledgeable in the
7 subjects they teach. As a result, the state's salary schedule provides
8 annual recognition for teachers with either a master's degree or a
9 doctorate. The legislature also finds that the state has implemented
10 a professional certification process requiring beginning teachers to
11 meet new rigorous, performance-based standards. The professional
12 certification process requires teachers to complete a minimum of
13 fifteen postgraduate quarter credits and to demonstrate competency in
14 specific knowledge and skill areas. The legislature further finds that
15 beginning teachers are at the bottom of the salary schedule and often
16 leave college with varying amounts of debt. Although new teachers are
17 the lowest paid in the system, they are required to take additional
18 college courses, often acquiring more debt, to meet the educational
19 requirements for a professional certificate. The legislature intends

1 to assist beginning public school teachers with their educational
2 expenses by providing a bonus to teachers who obtain a professional
3 certificate.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.405
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The state shall provide additional funding for a bonus to a teacher
7 who has obtained a professional certificate. The bonus shall be
8 calculated as ten percent of the salary for a teacher with a bachelor
9 of arts degree and zero years of service on the state salary allocation
10 model for certificated instructional staff. Moneys under this section
11 received by a school district may be used only to provide bonuses to
12 teachers who have obtained a professional certificate.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
14 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
15 June 30, 2005, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
16 void.

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