

SENATE FILE NO. SF0102

National teaching certification.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Coe, Landen, Rothfuss and  
Wasserburger and Representative(s) Connolly,  
Freeman, Northrup, Schwartz and Sommers

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to educators; authorizing the department of  
2 education to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit  
3 entity to establish a program relating to national teaching  
4 certifications; imposing limitations; repealing obsolete  
5 provisions; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-7-501(a), (c) and (f)(intro) is  
10 amended to read:

11

12 **21-7-501. National certification program; program**  
13 **limits and requirements; appropriations requirements;**  
14 **certified teacher pay incentive reimbursement.**

15

1           (a) The ~~professional teaching standards board shall~~  
2 ~~by rule~~ department of education may enter into an agreement  
3 with a nonprofit entity to establish a program under which  
4 ~~school districts shall reimburse no more than fifty (50)~~  
5 the department or the nonprofit entity will administer a  
6 program to assist educators in earning a national teaching  
7 certification. The agreement shall provide for biennial  
8 reporting requirements by the nonprofit entity to the  
9 department. The program may provide professional  
10 development and mentoring specific to national  
11 certification, along with other activities related to  
12 national certification. Additionally, the program may make  
13 payments directly to an organization that provides national  
14 teacher certifications on behalf of teachers and certified  
15 or licensed service providers employed by Wyoming school  
16 districts for up to fifty percent (50%) of the actual cost  
17 of receiving national certification. Certification fee  
18 payments by the program shall not ~~to~~ exceed fifty percent  
19 (50%) of the applicable national certification fee  
20 established by the national board for professional teaching  
21 standards. ~~for the applicable year certification was~~  
22 ~~received, provided~~ Payments by the program shall only be  
23 made if:

1

2 (i) The teacher or service provider has  
3 completed at least three (3) years of teaching; ~~in the~~  
4 ~~state of Wyoming;~~

5

6 (ii) The teacher or service provider, as  
7 applicable, ~~was successful in receiving his national~~  
8 ~~certification~~ timely pays the teacher's or service  
9 provider's portion of the certification fees and timely  
10 completes progress toward certification as required by the  
11 program; and

12

13 (iii) The teacher or service provider agrees to  
14 ~~mentor at least one (1) other teacher employed in the state~~  
15 ~~of Wyoming through the national certification process~~  
16 reimburse the program for any certification fee payments  
17 made by the program on behalf of the teacher or service  
18 provider in the event the teacher or service provider fails  
19 to formally withdraw from the process or to submit an entry  
20 that can be scored, as determined by the program.

21

22 (c) ~~A school district~~ The legislature may ~~apply for~~  
23 ~~an innovative program grant under W.S. 21-22-106(a)(iii) to~~

1 ~~recover amounts reimbursed to teachers and service~~  
2 ~~providers under subsection (b) of this section~~ appropriate  
3 funds to implement subsection (a) of this section so long  
4 as the nonprofit entity equally matches appropriated state  
5 funds and makes those matching funds available for purposes  
6 of implementing subsection (a) of this section. The program  
7 shall ensure state funds and funds provided to the program  
8 by the nonprofit entity shall not be comingled and shall be  
9 accounted for separately.

10  
11 (f) In addition to ~~reimbursement of the cost of~~  
12 ~~national board certification~~ the program established under  
13 subsection ~~(b)~~ (a) of this section, and to promote  
14 employment of national board certified teachers by school  
15 districts, each district employing a national board  
16 certified teacher shall be reimbursed for payments to these  
17 teachers subject to the following:

18  
19 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-7-501(b) and (d) is repealed.

20  
21 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2018.

22  
23 (END)