

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 26, 1998 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund

Table with 4 columns: Analyst, Staff Director, Reference, Action. Row 1: Chasteen, O'Farrell, ED, Favorable. Row 2: WM. Rows 3-5 are blank.

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund and specifies that it be administered by the Florida Department of Education. Funds must be credited to the trust fund as provided in SB 2156 or similar legislation. The fund is to be terminated on July 1, 2002 unless terminated sooner.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 1998, if SB 2156 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof.

This bill creates an unspecified section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 231, F.S., and rules of the State Board of Education govern the certification of teachers and other educators. The chapter does not provide incentives or waive certification requirements for accomplished educators who have met the certification standards of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

The NBPTS, a nonprofit organization, has established high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. The NBPTS has developed and operates a voluntary, national system to assess and certify teachers that meet those standards. Before applying for NBPTS certification, a teacher must have three years or more of teaching experience, must graduate from an accredited college or university, and must hold a valid teaching license. To qualify for NBPTS certification, teachers must pay a \$2,000 application fee, develop a portfolio of their work that demonstrates their knowledge and skills, and complete a lengthy written assessment exercise that measures their performance against established standards.

Nationwide, 913 teachers have earned NBPTS certification; 17 of those are Florida teachers. During the 1997-98 school year, NBPTS is offering national certification in seven areas:

- Early childhood/Generalist (students ages 3-8 years);
- Middle Childhood/Generalist (students ages 7-12 years);
- Early Adolescence/Generalist (students ages 11-15 years);
- Early Adolescence/English Language Arts (students ages 11-15 years);
- Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art (students ages 11-18 years);
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics (students ages 14-18); and
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science (students ages 14-18).

NBPTS certification complements, but does not replace state licensure or certification. Some states and local school districts provide monetary rewards and/or licensure incentives for teachers who seek and obtain NBPTS certification. Fifty-four states and localities provide fee supports to offset certification costs. Forty-two jurisdictions provide salary supplements. Thirteen states extend state licensure or certification to out-of-state teachers who hold NBPTS certification. Eleven states, Washington, D.C., and three local jurisdictions (including the Broward County and Dade County School Districts) allow NBPTS certification to satisfy license renewal and/or continuing education requirements.

In 1993-94, the Broward County School District participated in the field test of two NBPTS certification areas: Early Adolescence/English Language Arts and Early Adolescence/Generalist. NBPTS waived the certification fee for teachers who participated in the field test. Five of the participating teachers were awarded NBPTS certification.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill creates the Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund and specifies that it be administered by the Florida Department of Education. Funds must be credited to the trust fund as provided in SB 2156 or similar legislation. The fund is to be terminated on July 1, 2002 unless terminated sooner.

The trust fund established by this bill is in support of a new categorical program within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), the Excellent Teaching Program, as described in the committee substitute for SB2156 and SB1910. The program is designed to provide monetary incentives and rewards to teachers and districts that demonstrate their commitment to teaching excellence.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

Article III, s. 19(f)(2), State Constitution, requires that a trust fund be created in a separate bill for that purpose only. This bill complies with that requirement.

Under the provisions of s. 19(f)(2), Art. III, State Constitution, a trust fund must be terminated no more than 4 years after the effective date of the act that creates the trust fund. The trust fund shall be terminated on July 1, 2002, unless terminated sooner. Prior to its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed pursuant to s. 215.3206(1) and (2), F.S.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Pursuant to the committee substitute for SB 2156 and SB 1910, teachers in Florida public schools who choose to participate in the NBPTS certification program will have to pay 10 percent of the \$2,000 application fee.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The actual annual cost of the program will depend on how many teachers choose to participate in the NBPTS certification program, and how many are successful in attaining the certification.

The 1998 Senate Appropriations Bill allocates \$12 million for the Excellent Teaching Program.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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