

SENATE BILL NO. 2151

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the Office of Management and Budget)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to national certification of teachers.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
5 enacted as follows:

6 **Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- 7 1. "Board" means the education standards and practices board.
- 8 2. "Certification" means national board certification.
- 9 3. "National board" means the national board for professional teaching standards.
- 10 4. "National board certification" means national board certification as provided by the
11 national board for professional teaching standards.
- 12 5. "TEACH award" means an annual award granted to teachers maintaining national
13 board certification.
- 14 6. "TEACH program" means the program implementing this chapter to provide
15 teachers throughout the state with information about this chapter, to assist
16 teachers seeking national board certification, to provide scholarships to teachers
17 seeking national board certification, and to grant TEACH awards.

18 **Board duties.** The board shall implement this chapter. The board shall:

- 19 1. Inform teachers of the existence of the TEACH program and the scholarships and
20 services it provides to teachers seeking national board certification.
- 21 2. Collect and review scholarship applications from interested teachers.
- 22 3. Create an applicant review committee for the purpose of identifying scholarship
23 recipients for the TEACH program.

- 1 4. Ensure that all scholarship recipients and alternates receive adequate information
- 2 regarding the level of commitment required to acquire national board certification.
- 3 5. Pay a two thousand dollar TEACH scholarship application fee to the national board
- 4 for each approved scholarship applicant preparing for and taking the national board
- 5 examination.
- 6 6. Pay each teacher receiving national certification who is currently employed in a
- 7 North Dakota approved school a five thousand dollar TEACH award.

8 **Applicant review committee duties.** The applicant review committee consists of five
9 individuals representing the education community as determined by the board. Members of the
10 applicant review committee must be allowed necessary travel expenses, as may be approved
11 by the board, which are payable in the same manner as travel expenses of other state officials.

12 It is the duty of the applicant review committee to select from a pool of applicants
13 scholarship recipients and alternates. In determining scholarship recipients, the applicant
14 review committee shall consider whether the applicant:

- 15 1. Has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching;
- 16 2. Meets all eligibility requirements for potential certification as established by the
- 17 national board;
- 18 3. Is employed as a teacher in a North Dakota approved school; and
- 19 4. Meets other requirements established by the board.

20 **Implementation contingent on appropriation.** The board is not required to implement
21 this chapter with respect to any scholarships or awards if the legislative assembly does not
22 provide appropriations to support the TEACH program.