

CHAPTER 142**NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION — AWARDS PILOT PROJECT***H.F. 766*

AN ACT relating to the national board certification awards, establishing a national board certification pilot project, and requiring studies by the department of education.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 256.44, Code 1999, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

256.44 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT.

1. A national board certification pilot project is established to be administered by the department of education. A teacher, as defined in section 272.1, who registers for or achieves national board for professional teaching standards certification, and who is employed by a school district in Iowa and receiving a salary as a classroom teacher, may be eligible for the following:

a. If a teacher registers for national board for professional teaching standards certification prior to June 30, 2002, a one-time initial reimbursement award in the amount of up to one-half of the registration fee paid by the teacher for registration for certification by the national board for professional teaching standards. The teacher shall apply to the department of education within one year of registration, submitting to the department any documentation the department requires. A teacher who receives an initial reimbursement award shall receive a one-time final registration award in the amount of the remaining national board registration fee paid by the teacher if the teacher notifies the department of the teacher's certification achievement and submits any documentation requested by the department.

b. (1) If, by May 1, 2000, the teacher applies to the department for an annual award and submits documentation of certification by the national board for professional teaching standards, an annual award in the amount of five thousand dollars. However, if the teacher does not achieve certification on the teacher's first attempt to pass the national board for professional teaching standards assessment, the teacher shall be paid the award amount as provided in subparagraph (2) upon achieving certification. The department shall award not more than a total of fifty thousand dollars in annual awards to an individual during the individual's term of eligibility for annual awards.

(2) If the teacher registers for national board for professional teaching standards certification between January 1, 1999, and January 1, 2002, and achieves certification within three years from the date of initial score notification, an annual award in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars upon achieving certification by the national board of professional teaching standards.

To receive an annual award pursuant to this paragraph "b", a teacher shall apply to the department for an award within one year of eligibility. Payment for awards shall be made only upon departmental approval of an application or recertification of eligibility. A term of eligibility shall be for ten years or for the years in which the individual maintains a valid certificate, whichever time period is shorter. In order to continue receipt of payments, a recipient shall annually recertify eligibility.

2. a. If the amount appropriated annually for purposes of this section is insufficient to pay the full amount of reimbursement awards in accordance with subsection 1, paragraph "a", the department shall annually prorate the amount of the registration awards provided to each teacher who meets the requirements of this section.

b. If the amount appropriated annually for purposes of providing an annual award in accordance with subsection 1, paragraph "b", is insufficient to pay the full annual award to all teachers approved by the department for an annual award, the department shall prorate the amount of the annual award based upon the amount appropriated.

3. A teacher receiving an annual award pursuant to this section may provide additional services to the school district that employs the teacher. The additional services to be provided by the teacher may be mutually agreed upon by the school district and the teacher.

4. Awards shall be paid to teachers by the department as follows:

a. Upon receipt of reimbursement documentation as provided in subsection 1, paragraph "a".

b. Not later than June 1 to teachers whose applications and recertifications for annual awards as provided in subsection 1, paragraph "b", are submitted to the department by May 1 and subsequently approved.

5. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a teacher approved by the department to receive an annual award for certification in accordance with this section in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, shall receive the annual award amount specified in subsection 1, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), to commence with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999.

6. From funds appropriated for purposes of this section by the general assembly to the department of education for each fiscal year in the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2004, three hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be used for the payment of registration awards as provided in subsection 4, paragraph "a".

7. The department shall prorate the amount of the annual awards paid in accordance with this section when the number of award recipients exceeds one thousand one hundred individuals.

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDIES. The department of education shall conduct a study of the effects of the national board certification pilot project established in section 256.44 on teaching quality, professional development, the provision of additional services to school districts in accordance with section 256.44, subsection 3, and teacher induction and retention in this state. The department shall consider whether the effects of the pilot project support continuation of the project or expansion to include other teacher awards or recognitions. The department shall submit its findings and recommendations in a report to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house standing committees on education and the joint subcommittee on education appropriations by December 1, 2001.

Sec. 3. EMERGENCY RULES. The department of education may adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the provisions of this Act and the rules shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this section shall also be published as a notice of intended action as provided in section 17A.4.

Approved May 18, 1999