

## SENATE BILL NO. 115

INTRODUCED BY M. MOE, F. MOORE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR INCREASED FREQUENCY OF STIPENDS AND ADDITIONAL STIPENDS FOR CERTAIN CERTIFIED TEACHERS; MAKING THE STIPENDS ANNUAL; PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL STIPEND FOR TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 20-4-134, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 20-4-134, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-4-134. Professional stipends for teachers certified by national board for professional teaching standards.** (1) Pursuant to subsection ~~(4)~~, a one-time (5), an annual stipend of \$3,000 must be provided to each teacher who ~~obtains certification~~ holds a current certificate from the national board for professional teaching standards if the teacher is:

(a) a full-time classroom teacher, librarian, or other full-time employee serving in an assignment covered by national board certification assessment;

(b) certified to teach in Montana under the provisions of 20-4-103; and

(c) a full-time employee of:

(i) a Montana public school district, as defined in 20-6-101;

(ii) an education cooperative, as described in 20-7-451;

(iii) the Montana school for the deaf and blind, as described in 20-8-101; or

(iv) a state youth correctional facility, as defined in 41-5-103.

(2) An annual \$3,000 stipend in addition to the annual stipend provided for in subsection (1) must be provided to each teacher who meets the criteria for the stipend in subsection (1) and who has an instructional assignment in a school identified as:

(a) a school in a high poverty area eligible to participate in the community eligibility provision under Public Law 111-296; or

(b) a school impacted by a critical quality educator shortage pursuant to 20-4-503.

~~(2)~~(3) A teacher is becomes eligible for the stipend in subsection (1) and, if applicable, the additional

1 stipend in subsection (2) in the school year beginning July 1 after the teacher obtains certification or recertification  
2 from the national board for professional teaching standards.

3 ~~(3)(4)~~ By March 1, the superintendent of public instruction shall distribute stipend payments to ~~each~~  
4 ~~eligible teacher~~ any entity listed in subsections (1)(c)(i) through (1)(c)(iv) that employs an eligible teacher.

5 ~~(4)(5)~~ The obligation for funding the professional ~~stipend~~ stipends is an obligation of the state. This  
6 section may not be construed to require a school district to provide ~~a stipend~~ stipends to a qualifying teacher  
7 without a payment from the state to the district. ~~If the funding for professional stipends is less than the total~~  
8 ~~amount for which Montana teachers qualify, the superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the funding to~~  
9 ~~the districts in a manner that provides the same amount of stipend to each qualifying teacher. If the money~~  
10 appropriated for the stipends is not enough to provide the full amount for each eligible teacher, the superintendent  
11 of public instruction shall request the state budget director to submit a request for a supplemental appropriation  
12 in the second year of the biennium that is sufficient to complete the funding of the stipends."

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14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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