
DIGEST

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Jones

HB No. 540

Abstract: Provides that school boards are authorized but not required to pay salary supplements to otherwise eligible school teachers, counselors, and psychologists earning national certification on or after July 1, 2013.

Present law, relative to school teachers, counselors, and psychologists who have appropriate credentials from the state of La. and a national board, provides for an annual salary supplement as follows:

- (1) Teachers with a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are eligible for an annual amount not less than \$5,000.
- (2) School counselors with a National Certified School Counselor credential issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors are eligible for an annual amount of \$5,000.
- (3) School psychologists with a National Certified School Psychologist credential issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board are eligible for an annual amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Present law provides that all such salary supplements are subject to appropriation of funds for the purpose and provides for reimbursement of the appropriate school board by the state Dept. of Education from appropriated funds. Requires initial receipt of the applicable certificate or credential by July 1, 2013, for any individual to be eligible for the salary supplement.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes an employing school board to pay the salary supplement to an otherwise eligible person awarded the initial applicable certificate or credential on or after July 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 17:421.6(C), 421.8(A), and 421.9(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Instead of removing the July 1, 2013, deadline by which school teachers, counselors, and psychologists must have earned national certification in order to qualify for salary supplements, authorizes school boards to pay salary supplements to those earning

national certification on or after this date.