

***Appropriations Committee***

***HB 2232***

***Brief Description:*** *Defining earnable compensation for the teachers' retirement system.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Sehlin, H. Sommers and Fromhold.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *Excludes from the definition of earnable compensation in the Teachers Retirement System bonuses and stipends received for attaining certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.*

***Hearing Date:*** *4/10/01*

***Staff:*** *Denise Graham (786-7137).*

***Background:***

*The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit organization created in 1987 that provides advanced, voluntary certification for experienced teachers. The board was created as a way for the teaching profession to recognize highly accomplished teaching practice. The NBPTS is governed by a 63 member board of directors, of whom a majority are classroom teachers. The organization is funded through gifts and grants from foundations, corporations, individuals, the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation.*

*A certificate is awarded for 10 years and is intended to show that a teacher has been judged by his or her peers as one who meets high and rigorous professional standards. Teachers seeking certification must pay a \$2,300 fee. Private foundations, the NBPTS, and some school districts pay for some or all of the participation fee for a limited number of teachers. There are about 68 educators with NBPTS certification currently teaching in Washington and this number is expected to continue to grow.*

*At least one school district provides an annual \$1,000 bonus for the life of the certificate. The 2000 supplemental operating budget provides a two year bonus of \$3,500 for NBPTS*

*teachers who obtained certification before or during the 2000-01 school year. A proviso states that the bonuses are not included in pension calculations.*

*The Teachers Retirement System provides a benefit at retirement that is based on the retiree's highest consecutive two year annual average earnable compensation. "Earnable compensation" includes salaries and wages earned by a retirement system member but excludes payments for unused sick and annual leave.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*Excluded from the definition of earnable compensation for members of the Teachers Retirement System are bonuses or stipends received for attaining certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.*

***Appropriation:*** None.

***Fiscal Note:*** Not requested.

***Effective Date:*** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.