

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6657

As of Second Reading:

March 12, 2008

Title: An act relating to salary bonuses for individuals certified by the national board for professional teaching standards.

Brief Description: Including salary bonuses for individuals certified by the national board for professional teaching standards as earnable compensation.

Sponsors: Senators Murray, Fraser and Rasmussen; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Brief History:

House Committee Activity:

None.

Senate Floor Activity:

Passed Senate: 3/12/08, 49-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Includes bonuses paid to teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards within the Teachers' Retirement System definition of base salary, including the amounts in pension calculations and subjecting them in contribution requirements.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310).

Background:

Teachers who obtain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) are entitled to an annual bonus created by Chapter 398, Laws of 2007 (2SHB 2262). The basic bonus amount is \$5,000 for the 2007-08 school year, with the bonus amount to be increased annually to keep pace with inflation. An additional bonus of \$5,000 is available to NBPTS-certified teachers working in a school in which at least 70 percent of the students qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The bonuses paid to teachers for NBPTS certification are specifically excluded from the definition of base salary in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This means that the bonuses cannot increase the value of a teacher's retirement allowance, and also means that teachers that earn the bonuses do not make additional retirement system contributions due to the additional income that they receive from the bonuses.

Summary:

The definition of salary used in the Plans 1, 2, and 3 of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS 1, 2, and 3) is amended to allow the inclusion of bonuses paid to teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Teachers receiving bonuses for earning NBPTS certification make retirement system contributions from the bonus payments and may earn a higher retirement allowance as a result of the salary increase.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.