

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 2343

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Ways & Means, April 22, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to achieving savings in education programs by revising provisions relating to diagnostic assessments, classified staff training, conditional scholarships, certain professional development programs, coordination for career and technical student organizations, and national board certification bonuses.

**Brief Description:** Achieving savings in education programs.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representative Haigh).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 4/20/09, 77-21.

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means: 4/22/09 [DP, w/oRec].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Prentice, Chair; Fraser, Vice Chair, Capital Budget Chair; Tom, Vice Chair, Operating Budget; Zarelli, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller and Schoesler.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Honeyford.

**Staff:** Elise Greef (786-7708)

**Background:** The Senate Ways & Means Committee (SWM) Chair's proposed 2009-11 Operating Budget was first released on March 30, 2009. The budget proposed K-12 Near General Fund-state expenditure reductions of \$1.658 billion compared to the 2009-11 maintenance level. Among the reductions proposed were programs and initiatives that must be implemented under current law, unless amendments to statute provide otherwise.

Teachers in Washington who earn certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) can be eligible for two bonuses above their base teacher salaries. A base bonus of \$5,000 for NBPTS-certified teachers was established beginning in

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the 2007-2008 school year and, by statute, is to be adjusted for inflation every year thereafter. NBPTS-certified teachers are eligible for an additional \$5,000 bonus if they work in a high-poverty school, which is defined in statute.

**Summary of Bill:** The following Revised Code of Washington (RCW) statutes are amended to make implementation of the associated programs subject to the availability of funds appropriated for the purpose:

- 28A.655.200 - Diagnostic assessments
- 28A.415.315 - Paraprofessional training program
- 28A.660.050 - Alternative Routes' conditional scholarships
- 28A.415.350 - Learning Improvement Days
- 28A.415.250 - Teacher Assistance Program, peer mentoring
- 28A.405.415 - NBPTS bonus program

The NBPTS statute is amended to suspend, for two school years, the inflation-based increase in the annual bonus. The suspended amounts are to be made up by the end of the 2014-15 school year.

**Appropriation:** The level of funding provided in the SWM Committee's proposed 2009-11 budget assumes savings related to this bill.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2009, to coincide with the effective date of the 2009-11 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** CON: The Washington Education Association (WEA) opposes this bill. The Senate budget currently retains the full NBPTS bonus program, including the inflation-based increase to the annual bonuses. The House budget does not fund the inflation increases. The WEA prefers the Senate budget on this issue. However, if the conference budget adopts the House proposal, WEA favors the language that stipulates the inflation increases be made up by the end of the 2014-15 school year.

**Persons Testifying:** CON: Bill Freund, WEA.