

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on March 8, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Barbara Allen- excused

Committee staff present: Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Linda Sobieski, Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification, Emporia State University  
Terry Forsyth, Kansas National Education Association

**SB 11–National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program**

Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained that **SB 11** amends the statutes governing the National Board Certification Program. Under current law, board certified teachers receive a salary bonus of \$1,000 for each year of the ten year certification. In addition, teachers who are pursuing certification receive a scholarship of \$1,000 to cover some of the costs of the certification process. These two items apply only to individuals who are in an initial certification period. Some of those individuals who have gone through the ten year period are now renewing their certification. The Legislative Educational Planning Committee chose to introduce **SB 11** to eliminate the ten-year time limitation. With the bill, recertified teachers would receive the salary bonus. The bill would also codify the scholarship. The bill would authorize \$1,100 scholarships for teachers who are accepted in the program for initial certification and \$500 for teachers who are renewing their certification. Ms. Hollon noted that Division of Budget estimated that the fiscal impact of the bill at \$8,000 for FY 2006. However, several years later the costs would grow to approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 as the recent influx of teachers who have gained certification come to the end of their ten-year certification.

Linda Sobieski, Director, Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification in the Jones Institute at Emporia State University, testified in support of **SB 11**. She outlined National Board Certification facts relevant to the bill and discussed the National Board certification renewal process. In addition, she called attention to a chart attached to her written testimony showing the scoring rubric that the National Board uses when they evaluate the renewal process. (Attachment 1)

Terry Forsyth, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA), testified in support of **SB 11**. He noted that KNEA is very supportive of teacher participation in the National Board Certification process, and KNEA has worked with the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence to promote participation in the program. He pointed out that the process is rigorous and time consuming, and the assessment is based on high standards set by the National Board. (Attachment 2)

Following brief committee questions regarding the certification process, the hearing on **SB 11** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2005.