



Romney Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

**NBPTS CERTIFICATION:
WAIVE TEACHER LICENSE FEE**

**House Bill 5351 as introduced
First Analysis (11-13-97)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mark Schauer
Committee: Education**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is a nonpartisan, independent, nonprofit organization created in 1987. Literature from the NBPTS says that "its mission is to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, to develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet those standards, and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools." Currently, the NBPTS offers six certificates (with another soon to be available and more than 30 anticipated in the future) based on grade level and subject matter. The national certification does not intend to replace state certification but to complement it, says promotional material from the organization. Teachers voluntarily undergo a two-part assessment that takes the better part of a school year and evaluates teachers on their classroom practices and on written tests. The certification is valid for ten years. According to the Michigan Department of Education, there are 595 teachers certified by NBPTS, including 55 teaching in Michigan, and the State Board of Education has taken a number of steps to support the national certification program. Becoming nationally certified costs individual teachers \$2,000, but testimony from two such teachers before the House Education Committee suggests the personal and professional rewards are significant. Legislation has been introduced to provide an incentive for teachers to seek national certification.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to require the State Board of Education to issue a professional teaching certificate without charging a fee to a person who holds a provisional certificate, meets the requirements for a professional certificate, and presents sufficient evidence to the Department of Education that he or she has been awarded certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

MCL 380.1538

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Education has said there would be minimal fiscal impact as a result of waiving the \$125 professional certification fee. Of the 55 teachers who have become nationally certified, only six were candidates for state professional certification, the others having already achieved that. (Draft analysis dated 11-12-97) The House Fiscal Agency has noted that the 1997-98 Department of Education appropriations bill contains \$20,000 to provide grants to teachers seeking national certification. (Fiscal Note dated 11-10-97)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would motivate and reward Michigan teachers who choose to go through the rigorous certification process of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The program costs teachers \$2,000. (Reportedly, there are grants available to offset up to half of that amount.) It seems only fitting that nationally certified teachers with provisional state certificates should get their fee waived when obtaining their state professional certification.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Education supports the bill. (11-12-97)

The Michigan Education Association supports the bill. (11-12-97)

The Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel has indicated support for the bill. (11-12-97)

Analyst: C. Couch

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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