

STORAGE NAME: h0011Ea.llc.doc
DATE: May 1, 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LIFELONG LEARNING COUNCIL
ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 11E
RELATING TO: Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program
SPONSOR(S): Representative Lynn
TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) LIFELONG LEARNING COUNCIL YEAS 12 NAYS 0
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

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I. SUMMARY:

This bill reenacts and renames the Excellent Teaching Program and trust fund for the late R. Dale Hickam, who was Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This bill creates the sections 1010.72 and 1012.72, F.S., and repeals sections 236.08106 and 236.08107, F.S.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Less Government Yes No N/A
- 2. Lower Taxes Yes No N/A
- 3. Individual Freedom Yes No N/A
- 4. Personal Responsibility Yes No N/A
- 5. Family Empowerment Yes No N/A

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Excellent Teaching Program

In 1998, the Legislature created section 236.08106, F.S., the Excellent Teaching Program, as a supplement to state certification. The program provides incentives for classroom teachers to seek national certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The Excellent Teaching Program provides a fee subsidy of 90 percent of the NBPTS fee, \$2,300 as of April 2002, for Florida teachers who seek NBPTS certification. Additionally, the program provides a one-time portfolio preparation fee of \$150. Florida teachers who receive NBPTS certification are eligible to receive an annual bonus of 10 percent of the prior fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers, approximately \$3,800 for every year of the life of the certification (10 years). An additional 10 percent bonus can be earned for NBPTS certified teachers who mentor and provide other services to non-NBPTS teachers.

A teacher for whom the state pays the certification fee and who does not complete the program or does not teach in a public school in Florida for at least one year after completing the certification must repay the fee to the state. A teacher who completes the program but fails to be awarded NBPTS certification does not have to repay the state.

The total appropriation for this program has increased each year since the 1998-1999 school year. The Legislature appropriated \$12 million for the 1998-1999 school year, \$14 million for the 1999-2000 school year, \$19 million for the 2000-2001 school year, and \$31.4 million for the 2001-2002 school year.

Since the program's inception over 2000 Florida teachers have achieved national certification. The exact figures are as follows:

| | 1998-1999 | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| # Applicants | 1749 | 1455 | 2421 |
| # Withdrawals | 378 | 354 | 486 |
| Total Participants | 1371 | 1101 | 1935 |
| # Earning NBPTS certification | 546 | 700 | 992 |

According to the NBPTS, the national certification process has an average pass rate of 50 percent. However, since that percentage was calculated, the NBPTS has allowed teachers who do not pass a portion of the exam to retake just that portion. In the past, teachers were required to re-enroll in the entire program if they did not pass even one portion of the exam. It is hypothesized that this policy change will increase the number of teachers who pass the exam.

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

The NBPTS was established in 1987 as a nonpartisan, independent not-for-profit organization with the goals of setting high, rigorous, and detailed standards of what accomplished teachers should know. These standards represent 24 certification fields. Candidates must possess a baccalaureate degree, hold a valid state teaching license, and have accomplished three years of successful teaching.

National Board certification is a declaration that a classroom teacher has met the high and rigorous professional standards set by the NBPTS as measured by a peer group of classroom teachers. Candidates for National Board certification are subject to a portfolio review and a two-part assessment based on standards and teaching. NBPTS estimates that certification takes approximately one year to complete. The portfolio review includes students=work and videotapes of the classroom teacher providing classroom instruction.

Mr. Dale Hickam, Senate Appropriations Deputy Staff Director

On the morning of April 4, 2002, members and staff of the Legislature were stunned and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Dale Hickam, who served the Senate for 22 years as an analyst of education budget issues. Mr. Hickam was a dutiful staffer who assisted many of Florida's education leaders to implement programs of their own imagination, but he was also a man of ideas who sometimes handed education leaders the spark that ignited change. The Excellent Teaching Program was such a change. During the Legislative Session of 1998, Mr. Hickam worked with leaders of the House as well as the Senate to approve and fund this program to motivate teachers to undergo rigorous preparation for recognition by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and to reward those who earn the prestigious certificate.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 11E reenacts and renames the Excellent Teaching Program and trust fund after the late Dale Hickam. The bill also eliminates the repeal date of the trust fund, which the 2002 Legislature in regular session reenacted with a new repeal date.

The bill contains a provision stating that if any law that is amended by this legislation was also amended by the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature, such laws shall be construed as if they had been enacted at the same session of the Legislature, and full effect should be given to each if that is possible.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

See above.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a significant fiscal impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a significant fiscal impact on state expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a significant fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a significant fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not have a direct economic impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds or to take action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

This bill does not appear to violate any constitutional provisions.

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B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not grant any rule-making authority to any government agency.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

LIFELONG LEARNING COUNCIL:

Prepared by:

Council Director:

Anitere Flores

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