

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 540

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS: Provides relative to the eligibility of nationally certified school teachers, counselors, and psychologists for specific salary adjustments

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:421.6(C), 421.8(A), and 421.9(G), relative to salary  
3 adjustments for certain school personnel; to modify certain provisions of law relative  
4 to limitations on salary adjustments for school teachers, counselors, and  
5 psychologists; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:421.6(C), 421.8(A), and 421.9(G) are hereby amended and  
8 reenacted as follows:

9 §421.6. Adjustments in salaries of teachers having certificates issued by the  
10 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

11 \* \* \*

12 C. In addition to any other requirements of this Section, to receive the salary  
13 adjustment provided by this Section, an otherwise eligible person shall have been  
14 awarded the initial certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching  
15 Standards prior to July 1, 2013. However, the employing school board may but shall  
16 not be required to pay the additional amount to an otherwise eligible person who was  
17 awarded the initial credential issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching  
18 Standards on or after July 1, 2013.

19 \* \* \*

1 §421.8. Supplements to salaries of school counselors having certain certificates  
2 issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors

3 A.(1) Effective for the 2001-2002 school year and thereafter, a full-time  
4 school counselor who holds both a valid Louisiana counseling credential approved  
5 and issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and a  
6 National Certified School Counselor credential issued by the National Board for  
7 Certified Counselors and who is employed by a school board to provide services to  
8 students shall receive from the school board, in addition to annual salary, an annual  
9 amount of five thousand dollars with such additional amount to be distributed in the  
10 same manner as the annual salary. ~~To receive the salary supplement provided by this~~  
11 ~~Section, an otherwise eligible person shall have been awarded the initial credential~~  
12 ~~issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors prior to July 1, 2013.~~

13 (2) To receive the salary supplement provided by this Section, an otherwise  
14 eligible person shall have been awarded the initial credential issued by the National  
15 Board for Certified Counselors prior to July 1, 2013. However, the employing  
16 school board may but shall not be required to pay the additional amount to an  
17 otherwise eligible person who was awarded the initial credential issued by the  
18 National Board for Certified Counselors on or after July 1, 2013.

19 \* \* \*

20 §421.9. Supplements to salaries of school psychologists having certain credentials  
21 issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board

22 \* \* \*

23 G. In addition to any other requirements of this Section, to receive the salary  
24 adjustment provided by this Section, an otherwise eligible person shall be awarded  
25 the initial credential issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board  
26 prior to July 1, 2013. However, the employing school board may but shall not be  
27 required to pay the additional amount to an otherwise eligible person who was  
28 awarded the initial credential issued by the National School Psychology  
29 Certification Board on or after July 1, 2013. This Subsection is enacted to determine

- 1 if the salary adjustment will attract and retain full-time school psychologists who  
 2 hold a valid ancillary certificate approved and issued by the state Department of  
 3 Education.

### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Jones

HB No. 540

**Abstract:** Provides that school boards are authorized but not required to pay salary supplements to otherwise eligible school teachers, counselors, and psychologists earning national certification on or after July 1, 2013.

Present law, relative to school teachers, counselors, and psychologists who have appropriate credentials from the state of La. and a national board, provides for an annual salary supplement as follows:

- (1) Teachers with a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are eligible for an annual amount not less than \$5,000.
- (2) School counselors with a National Certified School Counselor credential issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors are eligible for an annual amount of \$5,000.
- (3) School psychologists with a National Certified School Psychologist credential issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board are eligible for an annual amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Present law provides that all such salary supplements are subject to appropriation of funds for the purpose and provides for reimbursement of the appropriate school board by the state Dept. of Education from appropriated funds. Requires initial receipt of the applicable certificate or credential by July 1, 2013, for any individual to be eligible for the salary supplement.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes an employing school board to pay the salary supplement to an otherwise eligible person awarded the initial applicable certificate or credential on or after July 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 17:421.6(C), 421.8(A), and 421.9(G))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Instead of removing the July 1, 2013, deadline by which school teachers, counselors, and psychologists must have earned national certification in order to qualify for salary supplements, authorizes school boards to pay salary supplements to those earning national certification on or after this date.