
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 110—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

FEBRUARY 21, 2005

Referred to Concurrent Committees on Education
and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing incentives for teachers
for teaching in certain subject areas and schools.
(BDR 34-376)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to educational personnel; revising the provisions
governing incentives for teaching in certain subject areas
and schools; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law directs the board of trustees of a school district to pay the cost of retirement credits for certain licensed teachers and psychologists who work with at-risk pupils or work in schools that need improvement. To qualify for the incentive program, a teacher must be endorsed to teach mathematics, science, English as a second language or special education. The law requires the board to pay one-fifth of 1 year of retirement credit when the teacher or psychologist meets certain conditions. (NRS 391.165)

This bill allows a licensed teacher who is eligible for the incentive program to opt to receive reimbursement for the costs of completing certain graduate courses rather than retirement credit. Each year that a teacher elects to receive reimbursement applies toward the 5-year limitation on receiving the retirement credit.

This bill prohibits the reimbursement of more than 12 semester credits per year or more than \$125 per semester hour. A licensed teacher who fails to successfully complete a graduate course will not receive reimbursement. He also may not subsequently elect to receive the retirement credit that he initially declined. The credit earned for each graduate course must be applied toward the completion of a graduate degree in the subject area for which the teacher qualified for the incentive program.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 391.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 391.165 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection~~
3 ~~subsections~~ 3 and 4 and except as otherwise required as a result of
4 NRS 286.537, the board of trustees of a school district shall pay the
5 cost for a licensed teacher or licensed school psychologist to
6 purchase one-fifth of a year of service pursuant to subsection 2 of
7 NRS 286.300 if:

8 (a) The teacher or school psychologist is a member of the Public
9 Employees' Retirement System and has at least 5 years of service;

10 (b) The teacher or school psychologist has been employed as a
11 licensed teacher or licensed school psychologist in this State for at
12 least 5 consecutive school years, regardless of whether the
13 employment was with one or more school districts in this State;

14 (c) Each evaluation of the teacher or school psychologist
15 conducted pursuant to NRS 391.3125 is at least satisfactory for the
16 years of employment required by paragraph (b); and

17 (d) In addition to the years of employment required by
18 paragraph (b):

19 (1) The teacher has been employed as a licensed teacher for 2
20 school years at a school within the school district during his
21 employment at the school:

22 (I) Which carried the designation of demonstrating need
23 for improvement; or

24 (II) At which at least 65 percent of the pupils who are
25 enrolled in the school are children who are at risk;

26 (2) The teacher holds an endorsement in the field of
27 mathematics, science, special education or English as a second
28 language and has been employed for at least 1 school year to teach
29 in the subject area for which he holds an endorsement; or

30 (3) The school psychologist has been employed as a licensed
31 school psychologist for at least 1 school year.

32 ➤ The provisions of this paragraph do not require consecutive years
33 of employment or employment at the same school within the school
34 district.

35 2. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 3.~~ ~~subsections~~
36 ~~3 and 4~~, the board of trustees of a school district shall pay the cost
37 for a licensed teacher or school psychologist to purchase one-fifth of
38 a year of service for each year that a teacher or school psychologist
39 satisfies the requirements of subsection 1. If, in 1 school year, a



teacher satisfies the criteria set forth in both subparagraphs (1) and (2) of paragraph (d) of subsection 1, the school district in which the teacher is employed is not required to pay for more than one-fifth of a year of service pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 286.300 for that school year.

3. In no event may the years of service purchased by a licensed teacher or school psychologist as a result of subsection 2 of NRS 286.300 exceed 5 years.

4. *A licensed teacher who is eligible for the purchase of service pursuant to subsection 1 may decline the purchase of service and elect to receive in lieu thereof reimbursement for the costs of completing certain graduate courses. To qualify for a reimbursement pursuant to this subsection, the licensed teacher must:*

(a) *Submit to the school district in which the teacher is employed a list of each graduate course that the teacher will complete during 1 year. The credit earned for each graduate course must be applied toward the completion of a graduate degree in the licensure area for which the teacher qualifies for the purchase of service pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (d) of subsection 1 or in an endorsement area for which the teacher qualifies for the purchase of service pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (d) of subsection 1, as applicable.*

(b) *Receive written approval from the school district in which the teacher is employed before the teacher begins the graduate courses.*

(c) *Sign a written statement declining the purchase of one-fifth of a year of service on a form provided by the school district in which the teacher is employed.*

↪ The requirements of this subsection must be satisfied for each year that a teacher declines the purchase of one-fifth of a year of service and elects to receive reimbursement for the costs of completing graduate courses.

5. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, for each year that a licensed teacher satisfies the requirements of subsection 4, the school district shall reimburse the teacher for the actual costs of each graduate course successfully completed by the teacher in that year, not to exceed 12 semester credits per year and \$125 per semester hour. If a licensed teacher does not successfully complete a graduate course he:*

(a) *Is not entitled to reimbursement of his costs pursuant to this subsection for that graduate course.*

(b) *May not subsequently elect the purchase of service pursuant to subsection 2 for the year in which he initially declined the purchase of service pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 4.*



1 **6. A licensed teacher may elect to receive reimbursement**
2 **pursuant to subsection 5 for each year that he is otherwise eligible**
3 **for the purchase of service pursuant to subsection 1, not to exceed**
4 **5 years, calculated from the date on which the teacher first**
5 **became eligible pursuant to subsection 1. Each year that a teacher**
6 **elects to receive reimbursement pursuant to subsection 5 applies**
7 **toward the 5-year limitation set forth in subsection 3.**

8 **7.** The board of trustees of a school district shall not:

9 (a) Assign or reassign a licensed teacher or school psychologist
10 to circumvent the requirements of this section.

11 (b) Include as part of a teacher's or school psychologist's salary
12 the costs of paying the teacher or school psychologist to purchase
13 service pursuant to this section.

14 ~~15.1~~ **8.** As used in this section:

15 (a) A child is "at risk" if he is eligible for free or reduced-price
16 lunches pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq.

17 (b) "Service" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 286.078.

18 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

