S.B. No. 26

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to national certification of public school teachers. 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. (a) The legislature 4 5 finds that if Texas is to have world-class schools, then Texas must 6 first have a world-class teaching force. (b) The legislature also finds that certification by the 7 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, developed by 8 teachers for teachers: 9 is a symbol of and tool for professional teaching 10 (1) 11 excellence; 12 (2) establishes advanced standards for an experienced 13 teacher by testing the teacher's knowledge against standards of 14 other highly trained teachers throughout the country; and ensures that teachers meet high professional 15 (3) standards of commitment and competence. 16 (c) The legislature also finds that an independent, 17 multi-year study of more than 600,000 students in North Carolina 18 found that the students of teachers who were nationally certified 19 experienced an increase in reading and math assessment instrument 20 21 scores by an average of seven percent. 22 (d) The legislature also finds that of the approximately 289,000 teachers in Texas, only 144 of those teachers are 23 nationally certified, compared with 4,938 nationally certified 24

79S10112 SLO-D

By: Shapleigh

teachers in Florida and 2,644 nationally certified teachers in

S.B. No. 26

2 California.

1

27

3 (e) The legislature also finds that in order for Texas 4 students to compete with students from other states, as Texas moves 5 toward a knowledge-based economy, Texas must encourage teachers to 6 pursue national certification. The 21st Century Educational 7 Excellence Program for National Certification serves that goal by 8 establishing a statewide program to assist Texas teachers in 9 achieving national certification.

SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

<u>SUBCHAPTER N. 21ST CENTURY EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM</u>
<u>FOR NATIONAL CERTIFICATION</u>
<u>Sec. 21.651. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:</u>
(1) "Board" means the National Board for Professional
<u>Teaching Standards.</u>

17 (2) "Program" means the 21st Century Educational
18 Excellence Program for National Certification.

19 <u>Sec. 21.652. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The agency shall</u> 20 <u>establish the 21st Century Educational Excellence Program for</u> 21 <u>National Certification to encourage teachers in critical subject</u> 22 <u>areas to obtain national certification by the board.</u>

23 <u>Sec. 21.653. APPLICATION; SELECTION OF APPLICANTS. (a)</u> 24 <u>The agency shall select not more than 500 school district or</u> 25 <u>open-enrollment charter school teachers to participate in the</u> 26 <u>program each year.</u>

(b) In selecting teachers to participate in the program, the

agency shall give preference to a teacher who is certified by the 1 2 State Board for Educator Certification in bilingual education, mathematics, science, special education, elementary reading, or 3 4 another teaching field identified by the commissioner as 5 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in this state in the 6 year in which the teacher applies to participate in the program. 7 (c) The agency shall adopt: 8 (1) procedures for submitting an application to 9 participate in the program; and 10 (2) criteria for the selection of teachers to participate in the program. 11 Sec. 21.654. PAYMENT OF CERTIFICATION COSTS. (a) A teacher 12 who participates in the program is entitled to receive funds as 13 14 provided by this section to pay costs of certification charged by 15 the board, including application fees. (b) The agency shall pay the teacher an amount not to exceed 16 17 85 percent of the cost of certification using funds appropriated for that purpose. To the extent such funding is available, the 18 19 agency shall pay the state's share under this subsection of the cost of certification using federal funds obtained by the State Board 20 21 for Educator Certification in an amount not to exceed one-half of 22 the cost of certification. (c) The agency and the State Board for Educator 23 24 Certification shall enter into an agreement that specifies the manner in which the State Board for Educator Certification will 25 26 transfer federal funds described by Subsection (b) to the agency. 27 (d) The remaining cost of certification shall be paid by:

S.B. No. 26

	S.B. No. 26
1	(1) the school district or open-enrollment charter
2	school that employs the teacher, if the district or school agrees to
3	pay the cost; or
4	(2) the teacher seeking certification.
5	(e) The shares to be paid by the agency under Subsection (b)
6	and the school district, open-enrollment charter school, or teacher
7	under Subsection (d) must be the same for each teacher
8	participating in the program in any particular year.
9	(f) A teacher who does not complete all of the requirements
10	for assessment by the board shall reimburse the agency and the
11	school district or open-enrollment charter school the full amount
12	of the payments received under Subsections (b) and (d)(1). This
13	subsection does not apply to a teacher who completes all of the
14	requirements for assessment by the board but who is not certified by
15	the board.
16	Sec. 21.655. STIPEND. A school district or open-enrollment
17	charter school may pay a teacher who participates in the program and
18	obtains board certification an annual stipend. From funds
19	appropriated for the purpose, the agency may match the amount the
20	district or school pays the teacher in an amount not greater than
21	<u>\$2,000.</u>
22	Sec. 21.656. STAFF DEVELOPMENT PLAN. The agency shall
23	establish a statewide staff development plan that uses the skills
24	and knowledge of teachers who have obtained board certification.
25	Sec. 21.657. RULES. The commissioner shall adopt rules as
26	necessary to implement this subchapter.
27	SECTION 3. The Texas Education Agency and the commissioner

## S.B. No. 26

of education shall implement the 21st Century Educational Excellence Program for National Certification, as required by Subchapter N, Chapter 21, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives 6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as 7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this 8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this 9 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the 10 legislative session.