WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2007

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
House Bill No. 2588

(By Delegates M. Poling and Paxton)

Passed March 10, 2007

In Effect on July 1, 2007
AN ACT to amend and reenact §18A-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the reimbursement of tuition, registration and other required fees for coursework completed by teachers for certification renewal and an additional endorsement in a shortage area; creating priority for reimbursement of courses for renewals and endorsement in shortage areas if insufficient funds appropriated; and limiting semester hours of courses reimbursed for any teacher.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18A-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-3a. Payment of tuition, registration and other fees for teachers; maximum payment per teacher.
(a) The West Virginia Department of Education shall promulgate rules to administer the reimbursement of tuition, registration and other required fees for coursework completed by teachers in accordance with the provisions of this section. The rules shall provide for reimbursement for courses completed toward both certification renewal and additional endorsement in a shortage area.

(b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them:

(1) "Teacher" has the meaning provided in section one, article one, chapter eighteen of this code.

(2) "Shortage area" shall be defined by state board policy to indicate the subject areas for which an insufficient number of teachers are available.

(3) "Certification" and "certificate" mean a valid West Virginia:

(A) Professional teaching, service or administrative certificate, or its equivalent; or

(B) Provisional professional teaching, service or administrative certificate, or its equivalent.

(4) "Requirements for certification renewal" are those requirements of the State Department of Education as provided in section three of this article.

(5) "Requirements for additional endorsement" are those requirements of the State Department of Education as provided in section three of this article.

(6) "State institution of higher education" has the meaning provided in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

(c) To the extent of funds appropriated for the purposes
specified in this section, payment shall be made to any teacher who:

(1) Holds either a valid West Virginia:

(A) Certificate; or

(B) First class permit for full-time employment; and

(2) Is seeking:

(A) An additional endorsement in a shortage area, and either resides in the state or is employed regularly for instructional purposes in a public school in the state; or

(B) Certification renewal, and has a continuing contract with a county board.

(d) The payment shall be made as reimbursement for the tuition, registration and other required fees for any course completed at:

(1) Any college or university within the state; or

(2) A college or university outside the state if prior approval is granted by the department.

(e) A course is eligible for reimbursement if it meets the requirements for:

(1) An additional endorsement in a shortage area; or

(2) Certification renewal.

(f) If funds appropriated for the purposes specified in this section are insufficient for the reimbursement of all eligible courses within the limits provided in this section, the West Virginia Department of Education shall make the reimbursements for courses for additional endorsement in a shortage area and certification renewal in a shortage area first.
(g) Payment made for any single fee may not exceed the amount of the highest corresponding fee charged at a state institution of higher education.

(h) Reimbursement for courses completed toward certification renewal is limited to fifteen semester hours of courses for any teacher. Reimbursement for courses completed toward additional endorsement in a shortage area is limited to fifteen semester hours of courses for any teacher.

(i) The West Virginia Department of Education shall seek funding from sources other than general revenue appropriation, including, but not limited to, workforce investment funds.

(j) No provision of this section may be construed to require any appropriation or any specific amount of appropriation for the purposes specified in this section, or to require the department to expend funds for those purposes from any other amounts appropriated for expenditure by the department.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect on July 1, 2007

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 28th day of ____________, 2007.

Governor