S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6851

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 13, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. CAMARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "teachers for at-risk schools act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "teachers for at-risk schools act".

S 2. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds that:

(a) schools in high-poverty areas employ fewer well-qualified teachers than schools in more affluent areas;

(b) teachers can make an enormous difference in children's lives, and the best teachers are needed to meet the enormous challenges in at-risk schools; and

(c) financial incentives bring high-quality teachers to high-poverty areas where they are most needed.

The legislature hereby enacts this act to improve the quality of education in at-risk schools.

S 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3613 to read as follows:

S 3613. TEACHERS FOR AT-RISK SCHOOLS. 1. IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER STATE AID PROVIDED TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THERE SHALL BE PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT TO EACH CLASSROOM TEACHER A BONUS, NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR, EQUAL TO THE BONUS PAID TO SUCH TEACHER BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYING THE TEACHER, WHEN SUCH CLASSROOM TEACHER:

A. TEACHES IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS A LOW PERFORMING SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWELVE OF THIS PART, OR IN WHICH MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE OR SUBSIDIZED SCHOOL LUNCHES; AND

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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B. IS A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER, HOLDS A MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE IN EDUCATION OR IN THE SUBJECT THEY TEACH, OR GRADUATED FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.5 OR HIGHER ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

2. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYING ANY TEACHER RECEIVING A BONUS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY INCREASE IN THE BENEFIT COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SUCH BONUS.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.