



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
Committee Statement  
LB 529**

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**Hearing Date:** March 5, 2007  
**Committee On:** Education

**Introducer(s):** (Nantkes)  
**Title:** Create a mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot project

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - X Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Danielle Nantkes  
Jay Sears

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
Nebraska State Education Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**  
Marge Harouff

**Representing:**  
Nebraska Department of Education

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 529 would add “high poverty school” to the definitions in the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and would establish the commitment to teach in a high poverty school as a priority for loans under the program. The bill would also establish the mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot program.

**High Poverty School and Prioritization for Loans:**

Section 79-8,133 would be amended to add a definition to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program for “high poverty school”. High poverty school would mean an elementary, middle, or secondary public school in which the poverty factor (as defined in section 79-1007.01) applies to forty-five percent or more of the students enrolled in such school.

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Section 79-8,135 which describes the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program eligibility and priority for such loans would be amended to strike the current priority language for students who are majoring in shortage areas. The section would be amended to establish priorities for loans awarded as follows:

1. First, to eligible students who have graduated from a high poverty school located in Nebraska and who commit to teach in a high poverty school upon successful completion of a teacher education program; and
2. Second, to students who are majoring in subject shortage areas as defined by the department.

Section 79-8,136 would be amended to strike obsolete language dealing with the transfer of cash balances on November 9, 2001 within five days after such date.

Section 79-8,137 would be amended to strike language referring to loan forgiveness for teaching in a school district with at least forty percent poverty and insert high poverty school as defined in the bill. Section 79-8137 would also be amended to insert a new subsection. Teachers who have retired the entire debt incurred pursuant to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and who thereafter become mentors to teachers or students in a high poverty school may become eligible for supplemental mentor teacher compensation pursuant to the act. This subsection would terminate on June 30, 2012.

#### **Mentor Teacher Supplemental Compensation Pilot Program:**

Section 5 of the act would establish the mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot program.

1. The purpose would be to provide financial and professional incentives and recognition for teachers employed in high poverty schools who commit to providing mentorship and guidance services to other teachers or students in such schools.
2. The State Department of Education would be required to establish a pilot program within teacher certification rules, to recognize the professional services of teachers who make a career commitment to improving the teaching and learning in high poverty schools.
3. The mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot program would provide salary supplements to mentor teachers of:
  - a. \$1,200 per year for mentor teachers with 3 to 7 years of teaching experience in a high poverty school;
  - b. \$2,400 per year for mentor teachers with 8 to 12 years of teaching experience in a high poverty school;
  - c. \$3,600 per year for mentor teachers with 13 to 17 years experience in a high poverty school; and
  - d. \$4,800 per year for mentor teachers with more than 17 years experience in a high poverty school
4. Amounts expended by school districts for salary supplements for mentor teachers, including FICA taxes and retirement contributions would be exempt from budget limitations.
5. Salary supplements for mentor teachers would be in addition to and would not supplant any compensation provided through negotiated labor agreements.

6. It would be the intent that no more than one million dollars per year be appropriated for such purposes. If the amount appropriated in any year is not sufficient to fund all eligible mentor teachers, the salary supplements would be prorated.
7. The mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot program would terminate on June 30, 2012.

Section 79-1018.01 dealing with the definition of local resources would be amended to strike “license fees” and insert penalties, and “license money distributed in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska”. The section would also be amended to include receipts for the mentor teacher salary supplements as local system formula resources.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson**