

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 214

Introduced by Halloran, 33; Briese, 41; Erdman, 47; Groene, 42; Lowe, 37.

Read first time January 10, 2017

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 79-8,125,
2 79-8,127, 79-8,129, and 79-8,130, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska; to provide for termination of the Master Teacher Program;
4 to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to
5 declare an emergency.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-8,125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 79-8,125 The Master Teacher Program is created. The purpose of the
4 program is to build a group of recognized teachers of high achievement in
5 the teaching profession. The State Department of Education shall
6 administer the program. The program terminates on July 1, 2017.

7 Sec. 2. Section 79-8,127, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 79-8,127 Prior to the 2017-18 school year, in ~~in~~ any year for which
10 an appropriation is made for the Master Teacher Program, each teacher in
11 the Master Teacher Program shall receive an annual salary bonus of five
12 thousand dollars up to a statewide total of one million dollars. If the
13 number of teachers qualifying for the bonus exceeds the number which the
14 one million dollars would fully fund at the five-thousand-dollar level,
15 the bonuses shall be reduced such that each teacher in the program
16 receives the same amount and the statewide total does not exceed one
17 million dollars. The State Department of Education shall allocate the
18 annual salary bonus to each teacher in the program. Payment of such
19 annual salary bonus shall not exceed the life of the credentials and
20 shall be made only upon approval by the department of an application or
21 upon reapproval each year after receiving the initial salary bonus.

22 Sec. 3. Section 79-8,129, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 79-8,129 The Master Teacher Program Fund is created. The fund shall
25 be administered by the State Department of Education to carry out the
26 purposes of the Master Teacher Program Act. The fund terminates on July
27 1, 2017. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
28 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
29 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

30 Sec. 4. Section 79-8,130, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 79-8,130 Prior to the 2017-18 school year, a A teacher who applies
2 to a credentialing organization for credentials required for master
3 teacher status shall be eligible for a registration award to pay for
4 application and registration fees associated with obtaining the
5 credentials. To receive a partial registration award in the amount of
6 one-half of the associated fees, the teacher shall register with the
7 State Department of Education within one year of application to the
8 credentialing organization by submitting any documentation required by
9 rule and regulation. To receive a final registration award in the amount
10 of the remaining fees, the teacher shall notify the department that the
11 teacher received the credentials and shall submit any documentation
12 required by rule and regulation. Up to forty eligible teachers shall
13 receive the first half of a registration award each year.

14 Sec. 5. Original sections 79-8,125, 79-8,127, 79-8,129, and
15 79-8,130, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

16 Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
17 passed and approved according to law.