

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 15, 2000 LB 1399

there will be a lot more than 40 apply, how do you determine who those 40 are going to be?

SENATOR THOMPSON: The Department of Education would write the rules and regulations for this, but I would see this as first come, first served. Now some districts do provide some money to teachers to take this, and if they continue to do that, I think those teachers would have that avenue, but this bill, this makes sure any teacher in the state who wants to do this would have the opportunity to be at least helped out with the cost of the certification process.

SENATOR VRTISKA: How long does this...how long does the certification process take on an average?

SENATOR THOMPSON: It takes at least a year, and depending, teachers can take various sections and bank them. In other words, if you take a section, and it isn't like a test. I mean teachers provide portfolios. They have videotapes of themselves teaching and so forth, but it is in a variety of categories. If they pass, it's a peer review process. If they pass one section and don't pass another section, they can bank their score and then go back and do what it takes to be able to be certified at the other. So it's a multiyear process for a lot of people; fast track, one year.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I think it's an excellent program. I'm just concerned about how they...you know, when I heard that somebody can increase their salary by \$7,500, I would assume now, and you talked about cap at 40, I was just concerned how, you know, how you're going to determine who those...you say on a first come, first served basis.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay, I must...I may have misspoken. The 40 are the people applying. Anyone who achieves it automatically gets the \$7,500, and it's a bonus from the state. It doesn't build on their salary. That's just an annual bonus to them from the state.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But...but you still haven't indicated to me except on the first come, first service...served...first come, first served, those who would be able to get into the program in