



# SENATE BILL 517: North Carolina New Teacher Support Act.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	April 11, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Barefoot, Lee, Edwards	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		

### OVERVIEW: SB 517 would:

- Provide for highly qualified graduates to be paid at higher experience levels on the teacher salary schedule when meeting certain qualifications.
- Provide funding for the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program.
- Provide for reimbursement of the fee for initial teacher licensure for successful applicants who are graduates of in-state educator preparation programs.

### CURRENT LAW:

**PART I:** The 2016 Appropriations Act provides a monthly salary schedule for teachers for the 2016-2017 school year that provides a higher monthly salary to teachers based on each year of experience (step) during a teacher's first 15 years of experience. New teachers with no experience are paid at the 0 step.

**PART II:** The North Carolina New Teacher Support Program, under The University of North Carolina General Administration, is an induction program that supports beginning teachers in their first three years of service by providing an instructional skills institute, professional development, and instructional coaching in partnership with North Carolina State University, Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina Center for School Leadership Development, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, East Carolina University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**PART III:** G.S. 115C-296 authorizes the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a schedule of fees for teacher licensure and administrative changes, including fees for the initial application for a New, In State Approved Program Graduate. Currently, the SBE has established this fee at \$70.

### BILL ANALYSIS:

**PART I:** SB 517 would define a highly qualified graduate as an individual entering the teaching profession who meets the following qualifications:

- Graduated from an approved educator preparation program in North Carolina.
- Had a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.
- Scored a 48 on the edTPA assessment or an equivalent score on a nationally normed and valid pedagogy assessment used to determine clinical practice.

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Highly qualified graduates would be paid on the highest of the following experience levels of the monthly salary schedule upon meeting the following criteria:

- Paid For 3 Years of Experience – A highly qualified graduate employed in a low-performing school would be paid at this experience level for the first four years of employment.
- Paid for 2 Years of Experience - A highly qualified graduate employed to teach special education, science, technology, engineering, or mathematics would be paid at this experience level for the first three years of employment.
- Paid for 1 Year of Experience - A highly qualified graduate would be paid at this experience level for the first two years of employment.

This Part would become effective only if funds are appropriated in the 2017 Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly, and would apply beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

**PART II:** SB 517 would appropriate one million dollars in recurring funds to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina beginning with the 2017-2018 school year to support and expand the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program, including 2 new anchor sites at Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

**PART III:** SB 517 would require the State Board of Education to reimburse, within 30 days of the applicant earning the license, the initial teacher licensure fee if the applicant is a graduate of an approved educator preparation program located in North Carolina.

The bill would also appropriate \$245,000 in recurring funds beginning with the 2017-2018 school year to the Department of Public Instruction to reimburse the initial teacher licensure application fees for qualifying applicants.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, SB 517 would become effective when it becomes law.