

- SUBJECT:** Stipends for teachers with national board certification
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — Reported favorably without amendment(s)
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Eissler, Zedler, Branch, Dutton, Hochberg, Olivo, Patrick  
0 nays  
2 absent — Delisi, Mowery
- WITNESSES:** For — Dr. Pascal Forgione, Austin Independent School District; Rebecca A. Palacios, Ph.D., National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; David Duty, Texas Association of School Boards; Holly Eaton, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Ted Melina Raab, Texas Federation of Teachers)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — Jamie Story, Texas Public Policy Foundation
- BACKGROUND:** HB 1 by Chisum, 79th Legislature, third called session, enacted in 2006, established the Educator Excellence Awards Program, a grant program to provide incentive awards for classroom teachers. School districts must use at least 60 percent of grant funds to directly award classroom teachers who effectively improve student achievement as determined by meaningful, objective measures. The remaining funds may be used only for such purposes as providing stipends to effective mentors or teacher coaches, teachers certified in critical shortage areas, and teachers in schools that have had difficulty assigning or retaining students.
- DIGEST:** HB 2646 would allow school districts to use the discretionary portion of the Educator Excellence Fund to provide stipends to classroom teachers who have obtained national board certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.  
  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take

effect September 1, 2007, and would apply beginning with the 2007-08 school year.