

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.B. 474  
Mar 31, 2021  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40286-MTa-91

Short Title: DRIVE to Excellence in Teaching.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Ball.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO FUND NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS  
3 CERTIFICATION FOR UP TO FIVE HUNDRED TEACHERS OVER THE 2021-2023  
4 FISCAL BIENNIUM.

5 Whereas, the Developing a Representative and Inclusive Vision for Education  
6 (DRIVE) Task Force has recommended strategies and steps that the State needs to take to  
7 diversify the teacher workforce and ultimately improve outcomes of all students; and

8 Whereas, turnover rates among teachers who have National Board for Professional  
9 Teaching Standards certification are lower than turnover rates among other teachers; and

10 Whereas, a diverse teacher workforce is academically and behaviorally beneficial to  
11 all students, especially students of color; and

12 Whereas, teachers of color comprise seven percent (7%) of the number of teachers  
13 with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in North Carolina and  
14 twenty-one percent (21%) of the total number of public school teachers; Now, therefore,  
15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Education  
17 Assistance Authority the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds  
18 for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to provide grants to a total of up to 500 licensed  
19 personnel of the public schools who are classified as teachers for the full participation fee for  
20 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification, as follows:

- 21 (1) The Authority shall distribute the grants in each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal  
22 biennium to teachers who meet the minimum requirements to receive State  
23 financial assistance for the NBPTS participation fee under G.S. 115C-296.2.
- 24 (2) Grants shall be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, according to a  
25 procedure developed by the Authority, beginning no later than September 1  
26 of each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.
- 27 (3) Teachers receiving grants shall also receive up to three days of approved paid  
28 leave in accordance with G.S. 115C-296.2.
- 29 (4) A teacher who receives a grant shall have no obligation to repay the grant to  
30 the State even in the event that the teacher does not receive NBPTS  
31 certification.

32 **SECTION 1.(b)** Of the funds appropriated to the State Education Assistance  
33 Authority pursuant to this act, the Authority may retain up to twenty-five thousand dollars  
34 (\$25,000) in each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for administrative costs associated with  
35 the distribution of grants for the NBPTS participation fee, as provided in this act.

36 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

