

HB 1520 -- TEACHER SALARIES

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill raises the minimum teacher salary beginning in school year 2019-20 from \$25,000 to \$30,000, subject to appropriation. The minimum salary for the holder of a masters degree with at least 10 years teaching experience is raised from \$32,000 to \$35,000, subject to appropriation, beginning in the 2019-20 school year if the degree is in a field directly related to the teacher's assignment. The Minimum Teacher Salary Fund is created for moneys appropriated to be distributed to each school district on the basis of the difference between the required minimum salary and the salary reported by the district on core data for each teacher who does not make the minimum salary. If the appropriation is insufficient to meet the need, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must prorate the appropriated amount so that the shortfall is equally distributed among all eligible teachers.

This bill is similar to HB 465 (2017) and HB 1626 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri teachers are among the lowest-paid in the nation, and there is a severe shortage of qualified teachers in Missouri. Increasing their salary will help attract more qualified candidates to the profession.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cookson; School Administrators Coalition; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teacher Association; and the American Federation of Teachers-Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.