

HB 1843 -- MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill raises the minimum teacher salary beginning in school year 2015-16 from \$25,000 to \$30,000, subject to appropriation. The minimum salary for the holder of a master's degree is raised from \$32,000 to \$35,000, subject to appropriation, beginning in the 2015-16 school year but requires that the degree be in a field directly related to the teacher's assignment.

The Minimum Teacher Salary Fund is created for moneys appropriated for distribution 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 and establishes a proration method in case of a less than adequate appropriation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that small school districts will benefit most from this bill.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.