

A bill that would raise the teacher salary schedule by roughly \$1000 a year for four years passed the House of Representatives on Thursday. KUAR's Sarah Kellogg has more.

**SalaryBillPassesHouse**

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*Sponsored by more than 90 house members, HB-1145 increases the minimum teacher pay rate from the current \$31,400 to \$36,000 by the 2022-2023 school year. According to Bruce Cozart, R-Hot Springs, the chair of the House Education Committee and one of the bill's sponsors, 168 schools would be affected by this legislation, while 67 would not receive funding because they already pay their teachers above the eventual minimum of \$36,000.*

*Rep. Gayla McKenzie of Gravette spoke in favor of the bill on the floor. While she was not one of the representatives who sponsored the legislation, she said it is a start to help schools that are underfunded and lose teachers to other schools who pay higher salaries. She mentioned Decatur, Arkansas, a town in her district, as an area that has trouble retaining educators.*

**McKenzie1**

**:15**

**"...helping Decatur"**

***"Little Decatur is having a hard time. They get some good teachers and we've got school districts all around them that can steal them just like that. So I'm supporting this bill because we're helping. We're helping Decatur."***

*However, McKenzie also said the state needs to continue evaluating how it spends on education overall and how they can help schools more.*

**McKenzie2**

**:11**

**"...in this state"**

***"I really want to urge us to come back and address this and I know we're going to, but I think that's a big problem if we're going to provide an adequate education for all of these kids in this state."***

*The bill received bipartisan support with 91 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes. It now will head to the Senate Education Committee. Sarah Kellogg, KUAR News.*