

Teacher Pay 1

SKK/DJB

2/14/19(ThursPM/FriAM)

Teachers in Arkansas are now a signature away from getting annual raises for the next four calendar years. House Bill 1145, known as the “Teacher Salary Enhancement Act” passed unanimously in the Senate today (Thurs) with a vote of 35 to zero. The bill passed the House last week, with a vote of 91 to 0 with 8 members not voting. Speaking for the bill, Democratic Senator Joyce Elliott of Little Rock told fellow lawmakers to expect requests for more funding to maintain higher teacher pay after the first four years.

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“...after those four years.”

The bill increases the minimum teacher salary for each of the next four years, eventually reaching a new minimum of \$36-thousand-dollars. The bill, co-sponsored by more than 90 House members and 13 senators, is a response to Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s initiative to raise teacher pay, which he identified as a priority during his reelection campaign.

Teacher Pay 2

SKK/DJB

2/14/19(ThursPM/FriAM)

A bill to raise the teacher salary schedule in Arkansas over a four-year span unanimously passed the state Senate today (Thurs). All 35 Senators voted in favor of HB 1145, or the “Teacher Salary Enhancement Act”, which would increase the minimum salary for teachers in the state until reaching a new minimum of \$36-thousand-dollars. The bill’s primary Senate co-sponsor, Republican Sen. Jane English of North Little Rock, said the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy will work to find a way to fund the higher salaries past the bill’s four-year schedule.

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“...to extend this.”

The \$60-million-dollar impact of the bill would come from the state’s educational adequacy fund, which is primarily funded by taxpayers. The bill now goes to Gov. Asa Hutchinson for a signature before becoming a law.