



Manar Passes Measure to Increase Teacher Minimum Salary

May 30 2019 3:11 PM



SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill) passed legislation Wednesday aimed at eliminating the teacher shortage in Illinois by increasing the minimum salary for teachers.

“Illinois schools are having an increasingly difficult time attracting and retaining qualified teachers and a big part of that is the fact that we aren’t paying them enough,” Manar said. “This legislation shows the high value we place on teachers and the commitment we have to keeping them in Illinois.”

House Bill 2078 would increase the minimum salary for teachers to \$40,000 over a four year period.

Illinois had not updated its minimum teacher salary since 1980. Since that time, state statute has mandated that that Illinois school districts pay teachers with a bachelor’s degree a minimum of only \$10,000.

Manar passed identical legislation last year that was supported by lawmakers from both parties before being vetoed by then-Gov. Bruce Rauner.

“This change is long overdue and has support from both sides of the aisle,” Manar said. “Increasing teachers’ salaries is one of the most effective tools we have at our disposal to keep qualified individuals in our schools and it’s time we take advantage of it.”

Under the measure, the state would update the minimum mandated salary for teachers annually over four years, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. After that, subject to review by the General Assembly, it would be increased according to the Consumer Price Index. The phase-in would look like this under the proposal:

- \$32,076 for the 2020-2021 school year;
- \$34,576 for the 2021-2022 school year;
- \$37,076 for the 2022-2023 school year; and
- \$40,000 for the 2023-2024 school year;

The measure passed the Senate with bipartisan support. Manar also passed identical legislation, Senate Bill 10, earlier this spring.