

Written Testimony
SB 138
March 14, 2017

To: Senator Jeff Longbine, Chairman and the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance committee members

From: Dr. Michael Argabright, Superintendent Southern Lyon County USD 252 (Olpe, Hartford, Neosho Rapids)

Thank you Chair Longbine and Committee members,

I stand as a proponent to SB 138 for the following reasons:

- Teacher and administration shortages based upon last year and current pools of qualified candidates.
 - School districts across the State have “open” positions from last year that were not filled due to the availability of qualified candidates.
 - Rural communities are struggling to find qualified candidates.
 - Average teacher salary in Kansas ranks 38th in the nation.
 - Numbers of students with teaching degrees coming out of Universities are down again this year in Kansas.
 - Student loans are difficult to pay off when our salaries are low and our Kansas teachers are recruited out of State.
 - This recommended change will assist School Districts in recruiting qualified teachers to fill vacancies.
- Currently, KPERS has complexity in the process for retirees, this bill will assist in simplifying the process for retirees and KPERS agency.
 - See attached document with several categories. Complicated to interpret!
- Allows local school districts to choose the best qualified candidate.
- Penalty fee remains the same for all retirees (simplifies the process).
 - State would not lose money, as legislation will set the rate.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. It will be a step in the right direction to assist school districts in finding qualified candidates for our students across the State.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Argabright
Superintendent of Schools
Southern Lyon County USD 252

School Contribution Rates & Earnings Limits by Category

Category	EWP Code	CY Earnings Limit	Rate FY17	Rate FY18
			School Year 2016-17	School Year 2017-18
Non-licensed and <i>same or different</i> employer Accepted position 5/1/15 or after	AC	\$25,000	10.81% (reg statutory)	12.01%
Non-covered position, <i>different</i> employer Accepted position before 5/1/15 (grandfathered)	ANC	none	0%	0%
Non-licensed and <i>same</i> employer Accepted position before 5/1/15 (grandfathered)	AWNR	\$25,000	0%	0%
Non-licensed and <i>different</i> employer Accepted position after 7/1/06 but before 5/1/15 (grandfathered)	ASNL	none	22.03% (ARC+6)	22.38% (ARC+6)
Non-licensed and <i>same</i> employer Returned to work before 7/1/06 and working on 5/1/15 (great-grandfathered)	AB	\$25,000	0%	0%
Non-licensed and <i>different</i> employer Returned to work before 7/1/06 and working on 5/1/15 (great-grandfathered)	ABD	none	0%	0%
Licensed and <i>same</i> employer Retired before 5/1/15 (grandfathered)	AWL	none	24.03% (ARC+8)	24.38% (ARC+8)
Licensed and <i>same or different</i> employer Retired on or after 5/1/15 (not in exception group)	AC	\$25,000	10.81% (reg statutory)	12.01%
Licensed and <i>different</i> employer Returned to work before 7/1/06 and working on 5/1/15 (great-grandfathered)	ABD	none	0%	0%
Licensed and <i>different</i> employer Returned to work 7/1/06 and after with retirement date before 5/1/15 (grandfathered)	AS	none	24.03% (ARC+8)	24.38% (ARC+8)
Special ed (new exception begins 7/1/16)	ASE	none	30%	30%
Hard-to-fill (new exception begins 7/1/16)	AHF	none	30%	30%
Hardship (new exception begins 7/1/16)	AD	none	30%	30%
Daily call substitute teachers (<i>do not enroll</i>) Definition: Classroom teacher paid daily for services rendered. Has control over own hours. Has an option to say no. Does not include any other non-licensed positions like custodians, food service, bus drivers, coaches, or any other licensed positions like nurses, speech therapists, principals, social workers, counselors, etc.		none	0%	0%