

# News...

*...from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. Bob Flider

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[www.housedem.state.il.us/members/fliderb/index.htm](http://www.housedem.state.il.us/members/fliderb/index.htm)

## **Flider Bill to Help Understaffed Schools Passes House Committee**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – Seeking to make sure local schools are adequately staffed to provide students with a top notch education, state Rep. Bob Flider (D-Mt. Zion) on Wednesday passed legislation out of the House Personnel and Pensions Committee to extend for another five years an important program allowing retired teachers to re-enter the classroom in understaffed schools.

“We need to make sure that our students get the education they deserve and part of that is working to make sure the right teachers are in place,” Flider said. “This legislation will allow our schools to continue bring in retired educators to help fill the gaps on their staff and at no additional cost to tax payers.”

Flider’s House Bill 4536 was requested Dr. Richard Shelby, Regional Superintendent of Schools for Macon and Piatt Counties. The legislation renews an important state program set to expire in June, which allows retired educators to return to full-time teaching without losing their retirement benefits. Under the law, retired teachers can only return to work in schools that actually have a staffing shortage.

Since the program’s inception in 2003, 41 retired educators returned to teaching classes in several subject areas experiencing teacher shortages, namely Special Education, Math, and Psychology, and in all areas of the state, including Decatur.

Shelby, who provided testimony during Wednesday’s hearing, says the return-to-teaching policy provides an important level of flexibility to the schools he represents.

“For our schools that have a hard time hiring enough qualified teachers, this program is really a wonderful tool and something that is of great benefit to our students,” Shelby said. “This legislation will provide students with highly-trained and experienced educators who are qualified in subject where there is a designated teacher shortage area. I commend Representative Flider for listening to the concerns of local educators and pushing for legislation that will help our kids receive the best education possible.”

HB 4536 now moves to the House floor for further consideration. For more information, please contact Flider’s constituent service office at (217) 428-2708.

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