

1.1 ..... moves to amend S.F. No. 4766; H.F. No. 4723, as amended by S4766-1A  
1.2 and S4766-2A, as follows:

1.3 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.4 "Section 1. WORK GROUP ON VESTING AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
1.5 PROVIDERS IN FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS AND THE STATEWIDE  
1.6 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PLAN.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Work group established; purpose. (a) The executive director of the  
1.8 Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (commission executive director) must  
1.9 convene a work group for the purpose of recommending legislation that would:

1.10 (1) shorten the vesting schedule for firefighter relief associations to a maximum of ten  
1.11 years;

1.12 (2) require that firefighter relief associations include volunteer or paid on-call emergency  
1.13 medical providers as members on the same basis as volunteer or paid on-call firefighters;  
1.14 and

1.15 (3) make the same changes to the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan (SVF) as  
1.16 are recommended for firefighter relief associations.

1.17 Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The members of the work group are the following:

1.18 (1) a representative from the Minnesota Association of Townships;

1.19 (2) a representative from the Minnesota Association of Small Cities;

1.20 (3) a representative from the League of Minnesota Cities;

1.21 (4) a representative from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association;

1.22 (5) a representative from the Minnesota State Fire Departments Association;

1.23 (6) a representative of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, designated by the  
1.24 director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services;

1.25 (7) a representative of the Office of the State Auditor, designated by the state auditor;  
1.26 and

1.27 (8) the executive director of Public Employees Retirement Association, or the executive  
1.28 director's designee.

1.29 (b) The commission executive director may invite others, including the commission's  
1.30 actuary, to participate in one or more meetings of the work group.

2.1 (c) The organizations and agencies specified in paragraph (a) must provide the  
2.2 commission executive director with the names and contact information for the representatives  
2.3 who will serve on the work group by June 12, 2026.

2.4 Subd. 3. **Mandate.** In arriving at the work group's recommendations, the work group  
2.5 must determine and consider:

2.6 (1) whether shortening vesting schedules has any impact on a relief association or SVF  
2.7 fire department's liabilities or funded status and, if so, what options are available to lessen  
2.8 the impact;

2.9 (2) any studies or data supporting or critical of the premise that longer vesting schedules  
2.10 aid retention or recruitment;

2.11 (3) how many fire departments, whether affiliated with a relief association or participating  
2.12 in the SVF, have emergency medical providers who solely perform that function, how many  
2.13 of these emergency medical providers are in each fire department, and the funded status of  
2.14 the affiliated relief association or SVF account;

2.15 (4) the basis, if any, for excluding emergency medical providers from firefighter relief  
2.16 associations and the SVF;

2.17 (5) the cost of requiring past service credit be provided to emergency medical providers  
2.18 when they become members of relief associations that are defined benefit plans or the SVF  
2.19 defined benefit plan and options for providing past service credit (i.e., as far back as a  
2.20 provider has active service in the fire department or back to 2019);

2.21 (6) whether the chronic overfunding in relief associations and the SVF can be expected  
2.22 to cover any liabilities under clause (1) or costs under clause (3) and what options are  
2.23 available for relief associations or fire department accounts in the SVF that are not  
2.24 overfunded;

2.25 (7) options for phasing in the shorter vesting schedules and requiring coverage of and  
2.26 past service credit for emergency medical providers; and

2.27 (8) any other issues related to vesting and eligibility that merit discussion by the work  
2.28 group and inclusion in the recommendations.

2.29 Subd. 4. **Recommendations; proposed legislation.** (a) With the assistance of the  
2.30 commission executive director, the work group must prepare proposed legislation that  
2.31 implements the recommendations of the work group. If the work group recommends more  
2.32 than one approach, the work group must provide alternative bills.

3.1 (b) The commission executive director must submit the recommendations of the work  
3.2 group, along with proposed legislation that implements the recommendations, to the  
3.3 Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement by January 29, 2027, or, if later, the  
3.4 date all members of the Commission have been appointed for the 2027-2028 biennium.

3.5 Subd. 5. **Meetings; chair; administrative support.** (a) The commission executive  
3.6 director must convene the first meeting of the work group by July 27, 2026.

3.7 (b) The members of the work group must elect a chair or co-chairs at the first meeting.  
3.8 The chair or co-chair is not required to be a member of the work group.

3.9 (c) Meetings may be conducted remotely or in person or a combination of remotely and  
3.10 in person.

3.11 (d) Commission staff must provide meeting space, if needed, and administrative support  
3.12 to the chair or co-chairs of the work group.

3.13 Subd. 6. **Compensation; lobbying; retaliation.** (a) Members of the work group serve  
3.14 without compensation.

3.15 (b) Participation in the work group is not lobbying under Minnesota Statutes, chapter  
3.16 10A.

3.17 (c) An individual's employer or an organization or association of which an individual  
3.18 is a member must not retaliate against the individual because of the individual's participation  
3.19 in the work group.

3.20 Subd. 7. **Expiration.** The work group expires June 30, 2027.

3.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following enactment."

3.22 Amend the title accordingly