



Legislative Commission On Pensions and Retirement

Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, 1st Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

SENATE MEMBERS

Sen. Nick A. Frentz, Chair
Sen. Jeff R. Howe, Secretary
Sen. Carla J. Nelson
Sen. Sandra L. Pappas
Sen. Jordan Rasmusson
Sen. Judy Seeberger
Sen. Bonnie S. Westlin

HOUSE MEMBERS

Rep. Leon Lillie, Vice Chair
Rep. Ethan Cha
Rep. Josiah Hill
Rep. Pete Johnson
Rep. Danny Nadeau
Rep. Tim O'Driscoll
Rep. Terry Stier

COMMISSION STAFF

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director
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March 10, 2026

Room G15, State Capitol Building

MINUTES

Call to order:

Chair Frentz called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Senators Frentz, Howe, Nelson, Pappas, Rasmusson, Seeberger, Westlin
Representatives Cha, Hill, Johnson, Lillie, Nadeau, O'Driscoll, Stier

Commission Members Absent:

None.

Agenda Items

Approval of the March 3, 2026, meeting minutes.

Senator Westlin moved approval of the March 3, 2026, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Annual Update from the State Board of Investment.

Jill Schurtz, Executive Director, State Board of Investment (SBI), gave a presentation titled "SBI Overview."

In response to a member's question, Ms. Schurtz and Andy Christensen, Deputy Executive Director, SBI, testified on a later agenda item, SF 1213 (Miller)/HF 2117 (Repinski), providing follow-up on a request from the Commission for SBI to attempt to locate a missing IRAP account. Ms. Schurtz and Mr. Christensen testified that SBI did not perform recordkeeping duties for accounts in the MN State IRAP; therefore, SBI would not have had information identifying the individuals with IRAP accounts.

Report on the Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program

Jill Schurtz, Chair of the Secure Choice Board and Executive Director of SBI, and Chad Roberts, Executive Director, Secure Choice, gave a presentation titled "Program Update."

SF 3897 (Gustafson); HF 3703 (Nadeau): Modifying the process for terminating a firefighter relief association retirement plan.

Senator Gustafson presented SF 3897/HF 3703.

Julie Blaha, MN State Auditor, testified in support of the bill.

Matt Percy, Mayor, Circle Pines, testified in support of the bill.

Russ Koski, Council Member, Centerville, testified in support of the bill.

Brent Hood, Treasurer, Centennial Fire Relief Association, testified in support of the bill.

Darren Eckart, President, Centennial Fire Relief Association, testified in support of the bill.

Michael Walstien, paid on-call firefighter, member of the State Auditor's Fire Relief Association Working Group, testified in support of the bill.

Brian Rice, attorney for the Circle Pines Firefighters Relief Association, Rice, Walther & Mosley LLP, testified in support of the bill.

In response to a member's question, Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, testified that the phrase 'present value' appears to have been inadvertently inserted into the legislation during the drafting process since it was not a phrase used in the legislation proposed in the 2019 report by the work group on conversions and dissolutions.

In response to a member's question, Rose Hennessy-Allen, Pension Division Director, Office of the State Auditor, testified that several relief associations have dissolved plans since the statute regarding dissolutions was changed, and that these associations followed the benefit calculations for distributions based on the relief association bylaws, rather than using present value calculations. Ms. Hennessy-Allen clarified that these relief associations are governed by a different statute than fire departments in the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan, such as Maple Plain. Ms. Hennessy-Allen also testified that municipalities are required to make contributions to their fire relief associations in the event that the amount of fire state aid is not enough to offset the relief association's normal cost for a year.

Representative Nadeau gave closing statements on the bill.

Senator Howe offered the S897-3A amendment.

LCPR Meeting Minutes

Ms. Lenczewski reviewed the S897-3A amendment offered by Senator Howe.

Senator Gustafson testified in opposition to the 3A amendment.

- Senator Howe moved Amendment S3588-3A. **MOTION FAILED.**
- Chair Frentz moved SF3897/HF3703, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION APPROVED ON A VOICE VOTE.**
- Senator Rasmusson moved division and requested a roll call.
- Chair Frentz requested a show of hands rather than a roll call.

Members voting AYE:

Sen. Seeberger
Sen. Westlin
Sen. Frentz

Total Senate: 3

Rep. O'Driscoll
Rep. Lillie
Rep. Nadeau
Rep. Stier

Total House: 7

Members voting NAY:

Sen. Nelson
Sen. Rasmusson
Sen. Howe

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Member Absent:

Senator Pappas

- There being 10 ayes and 3 nays, with a 3-3 tie on the Senate side, the **MOTION FAILED.**
- Having voted on the prevailing side, Senator Howe moved to reconsider the bill. **MOTION PREVAILED**

Chair Frentz stated that the bill would be laid over for future consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.