



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 17, 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, Pappas, Rasmusson, Seeberger, and Westlin
Representatives Cha, Hill, Johnson, Lillie, Nadeau, O'Driscoll, and Stier

Commission Members Absent:

Senator Nelson

Agenda Items

Approval of the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes.

- Senator Westlin moved approval of the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Report from MN State on missing IRAP account for SF 1213 (Miller); HF 2117 (Repinski): Special legislation requiring MN State to find an IRAP account.

- Rep. O'Driscoll moved SF 1213/HF 2117, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

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

Senator Gustafson gave a brief overview of the bill.

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo.

Written testimony was received from Rose Hennessy-Allen, Pension Division Director, Office of the State Auditor.

- Senator Pappas moved SF 3897/HF 3703 be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF 4162 (O’Driscoll): Teachers Retirement Association (TRA); requiring the employer of a reemployed annuitant to make employer contributions to TRA.

Representative O’Driscoll offered Amendment H4162-1A.

Aleena Wilson, Analyst, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the amendment.

- Representative O’Driscoll moved Amendment H4162-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Representative O’Driscoll gave an overview of the bill.

In response to a member’s question, Ms. Wilson testified that the cost of the bill is roughly \$5.3 million, based on the cost study from the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA).

Tim Maurer, Executive Director, TRA, testified that the TRA Board does not have a position on the bill.

Phill Tencick, Executive Director & CIO, St. Paul Teachers’ Retirement Fund Association (SPFTRA), testified that the proposed changes under the bill are already in SPFTRA’s statutes.

The bill, as amended, was laid over.

SF 4330 (Rasmusson); HF 4167 (Nadeau): TRA Administrative bill; adding “physician assistant” to list of medical providers for disability applications.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the bill.

Representative Nadeau gave an overview of the bill.

Mr. Maurer testified in support of the bill.

- Senator Rasmusson moved SF 4330/HF 4167 be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

SF 4276 (Frentz); HF 4074 (Lillie): MSRS Administrative bill.

Chair Frentz passed the gavel to Representative Lillie.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the staff memo.

Jenkins Vangehn, Agency Policy Specialist and Legislative Liaison, Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), testified in support of the bill and gave a brief overview of the estimated cost to employers and employees for missed contributions when the deputy state fire marshal investigators transfer to the special coverage for fire marshal division employees.

Devin Bruce, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE), testified in support of the bill.

[Written testimony](#) in support of the bill was received from Chris Clark and Joshua Magner, Deputy State Fire Marshal Investigators.

- Senator Frentz moved SF 4276/HF 4074 be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

SF 4373 (Frentz): MSRS, PERA, TRA, St. Paul Teachers: amending salary definitions to exclude payments from the State for Minnesota paid leave.

Senator Frentz offered Amendment 3473-1A.

Ms. Wilson gave an overview of Amendment S4373-1A.

- Chair Frentz moved Amendment S4373-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

In response to member's questions, Ms. Lenczewski and Ms. Wilson, testified that under the amended bill, employees who take paid leave in MSRS, PERA, TRA, and SPTRFA, have the choice to buy service credit for the period of leave.

Amy Strenge, Policy Coordinator, Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), testified that the PERA Board supports the bill.

In response to a member's question, Ms. Strenge testified that members may choose to purchase service credit for the period of paid leave to increase their service credit or to have the period of leave included in the member's high-five average salary to be used to calculate their retirement benefit. Ms. Strenge also testified that the member would be responsible for

paying the employee and employer contributions for the period of paid leave and that the member is entitled to buy back the full period of time.

In response to a member's question, Mr. Tencick testified that, under the amendment, authorized medical or family leave is eligible for the purchase of past service credit.

- Senator Frentz moved SF 4373, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF 4272 (Olson): TRA; Extending 60- 30 early retirement benefit to deferred vested former teachers with at least 30 years of service.

Ms. Lenczewski reviewed the staff memo and cost study provided by TRA.

Rob Norman, retired teacher and athletic director, Blue Earth Area Schools, testified in support of the bill.

Kate Lynne Snyder, Lobbyist, Education Minnesota, testified in support of the bill.

Chair Frentz provided additional information on the impact of the bill on TRA's unfunded liability and that TRA does not have a position on the bill.

Representative Olson testified that the bill only applies to a small group of deferred vested former teachers and gave closing remarks on his bill.

The bill was laid over.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.