



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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April 14, 2026

Room G15, State Capitol Building

MINUTES

Call to order:

Chair Frentz called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Member Absent: None.

Approval of the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes.

➤ Representative Cha moved approval of the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

SF4464 (Howe): Extending the requirement to provide health insurance coverage to duty-disabled members (but not from a psychological condition) from 5 years to age 65.

Senator Howe reviewed his bill.

Senator Hoffman gave additional background on the bill.

Mike LeDoux, Director of Legislative Affairs, Law Enforcement Labor Services, testified in support of the bill.

Anne Finn, Intergovernmental Relations Director, League of Minnesota Cities, testified in opposition to the bill.

Amber Waldner, Wife of Deputy Logan Waldner, Nobles County Sheriff's Department, testified in support of the bill.

Ryan Sheak, Officer, Cottage Grove Police Department, testified in support of the bill.

Ryan Priebe, Sergeant, St. Cloud Police Department, testified in support of the bill.

Ryan Kruger, Sheriff, Nobles County Sheriff's Department, testified in support of the bill.

Nicholas Albert, Officer, Elk River Police Department, testified in support of the bill.

The following written testimony was submitted:

[Letter of Support](#) from Law Enforcement Labor Services

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[Letter of Support](#) from Chris Steward, President, Heroes Helping Heroes

[Letter of Support](#) from Shane Myre, President, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

[Letter of Opposition](#) from the Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Inter-County Association, and the Coalition of Greater MN Cities

In response to a member's question, Mr. LeDoux testified that physical and psychological conditions are treated differently under the bill, as physical disabilities make finding future employment more difficult.

Senator Hoffman and Senator Howe gave closing comments on their bill.

The bill was laid over.

[SF4766 \(Seeberger\); HF4723 \(Johnson\): Requiring firefighter relief associations to cover emergency medical providers; allowing participation in the PERA defined contribution plan and a relief association retirement plan.](#)

Senator Seeberger reviewed her bill.

Representative Johnson provided additional information on the bill.

Julie Blaha, State Auditor, Office of the State Auditor, testified that she has concerns about the bill, and recommended that the State Auditor's Fire Relief Working Group be tasked with addressing the topic of the bill.

In response to a member's question, Rose Hennessy-Allen, Pension Division Director, Office of the State Auditor, testified that the Working Group has addressed this topic before, but it has been some time since it was last addressed.

Andrew Slama, Minnesota Fire Association Coalition Legislative Committee (MNFAC) Legislative Vice Chair, Edina Fire Chief, testified that he has concerns about the bill.

➤ Senator Seeberger moved the [Amendment S4766-1A](#). **MOTION PREVAILED.**

In response to a member's question, Senator Seeberger stated that she would like to see the bill move forward this session, but is open to bringing the topic to the Office of the State Auditor's Fire Relief Working Group.

➤ Senator Seeberger moved the [Amendment S4766-2A](#). **MOTION PREVAILED.**

In response to a member's question, Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, stated that fire reliefs are funded by state aid, based on the population served and other factors such as property values, not by the number of members in the fire relief association.

In response to a member's question, Senator Seeberger stated that the bill mandates fire relief associations cover emergency medical providers.

The bill, as amended, was laid over.

[SF4767 \(Seeberger\); HF4724 \(Johnson\): Phasing in shorter vesting schedules for firefighter relief associations.](#)

Senator Seeberger reviewed her bill.

Ms. Lenczewski reviewed the S4767-1A, S4767-4A, and S4767-5A amendments.

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- Senator Seeberger moved [Amendment S4767-4A](#). **MOTION PREVAILED.**
- Senator Seeberger offered [Amendment S4767-5A](#). **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Ms. Blaha testified in opposition to the bill as amended by S4767-5A.

In response to a member's question, Ms. Blaha testified that 440 firefighter relief associations have a 20-year vesting schedule.

Zach Lundberg, Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA), Board member and Isanti Fire District, testified in opposition to the bill.

Andrew Slama testified in opposition to the bill.

In response to a member's question, Mr. Slama testified that, in his opinion, most firefighters do serve long enough to become vested. He also testified that he believes a longer vesting schedule is a valuable retention tool.

In response to members' questions, Ms. Lenczewski stated that the phase-in of the shorter vesting schedules could be adjusted to six years.

The bill, as amended, was laid over.

[SF4764 \(Nelson\); HF4630 \(Cha\)](#): Adding County Commissioners to the Health Care Savings Plan.

Gregory Wright, County Commissioner, Olmstead County, testified in support of the bill and provided background on the bill. He also provided the Commission with a [Letter of Support](#).

- Representative Cha moved [Amendment S4764-1A](#). **MOTION PREVAILED.**

In response to a member's question, Ms. Lenczewski stated that the bill permits the employer to allow other employees, such as township employees and elected officials, to contribute to the health care savings plan.

Matt Hilgart, Deputy Director of Government Relations, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), testified that AMC does not have a position on the bill.

Senator Nelson and Representative Cha gave closing comments on their bill.

- Senator Nelson moved SF4764/HF4630, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2026 omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.