

March 11, 1981 Meeting  
Room 51 State Office Building  
10:00 to 12 Noon

MINUTES

Representative John Sarna, Chairman, opened the meeting.

PRESENT: Senators Moe, Fredrickson, Collin Peterson, Spear, Renneke  
Representatives Kaley, Reding Rodriguez, Rice, Sarna

The Minutes of the March 4, 1981 organizational meeting were approved.

Rep. Rodriguez moved to approve an increase in the appropriation request for the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement for the 1981-83 biennium from \$244,440 to \$254,880. Motion carried.

The following representatives of the various public pension funds appeared before the Commission:

St. Clair Beeman, Committee of 13  
Chuck Anderson, Director of Minnesota Police Assn., MPOA & Minnesota  
Police Pension Council  
Bob Walton, PEPSA  
Gus Welter, Minnesota State Fire Department Assn.  
Tom Gelbmann, President, Minnesota Fire Department Relief Assn.  
Tom Dickinson, Secretary, Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Assn.  
John Longstreet, Retired Educators of Minnesota  
Carol Flynn, AFSCME, Council 6  
Stan Peskar, League of Minnesota Cities  
Ken Bresin, MEA - Government Relations  
Dick Feider, St. Paul Police Relief Assn.  
Ken Reed, Rochester Police, MPOA  
Paul Groschen, Executive Director, Minnesota State Retirement System  
Harvey Schmidt, Executive Director, TRA  
C. Mike McLaren, Executive Director, PERA  
Stan Enebo, PERA  
Lyle Farmer, Sec/Treas, St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Assn.  
Henry Winkels, MFT

The following bills were considered and discussed:

HF 191 (Battaglia); SF 128 (Dicklich) PERA: Range Association of Cities Employees Inclusion. The bill authorizes the inclusion of the employees of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools in the Public Employees Retirement Association. Karen Dudley, Assistant, went over the memo.

HF 364 (Clawson); SF 124 (Stumpf) Inclusion of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Membership in PERA. The bill authorizes the inclusion of all soil and water conservation employees in the Public Employees Retirement Association as coordinated members. Karen Dudley went over the memo and discussion followed.

Marilyn Denen, MASWC lobbyist, gave some background on the program. She explained that the program has been in Minnesota for 40 years; that it came in as a federal program but that there are no federal employees included; also about 70 part time employees are included.

Staff was directed to check re part time employees

HF 545 (Schreiber) Inclusion of employees of the Suburban Public Health Nursing Service, Incorporated, in PERA. This bill authorizes the inclusion of employees of the Suburban Public Health Nursing Service (SPHNS) in the Public Employees Retirement Association and the purchase of prior service in PERA. Dave Kennedy, SPHNS, advised that the escrow account was established by the board of the association.

HF 439 (Sarna); SF 305 (D.M. Moe) Minneapolis Municipal Employees Retirement Fund: Authorizing the Repayment of a Refund. The bill permits the repayment of a refund to the Minneapolis Municipal Employees Retirement Fund by a current member of the University of Minnesota faculty retirement plan. The refund is to be equal to the amount of the refund plus interest at the rate of six percent per annum, compounded annually. Karen Dudley went over the memo.

The Commission discussed the need for a general policy applicable to all funds.

HF 49 (Olsen); SF 273 (Stern) MMER Retirement Fund: Authorizing Repayment of a Refund. The bill permits the repayment of a refund to the MMER by a former member. Karen Dudley went over the memo.

HF 5 (Heinitz); SF 367 (Ramstad): Fire State Aid Program, Removal of Transitional Limitations. This bill removes from the fire state aid program various provisions which establish minimum and maximum fire state aid amounts for the various aid recipients. L. Martin went over the memo.

Emil Anderson, State Insurance Division, explained the fire state aid program. He stated that passage of this bill will help to eliminate some of the calculations in his office and for the county auditors.

HF 397 (Haukoos; SF 404 (Renneke): Major Retirement Funds Optional Annuity Election by Disability Benefit Recipients. The bill authorizes disability recipients from a number of the Minnesota public pension funds to elect an actuarially equivalent optional annuity at the time of the commencement of the disability benefit. Larry Martin went over the memo and discussion followed.

Paul Groschen, Executive Director of MSRS, commented that it was his opinion that this bill, if enacted, would definitely encourage members to apply for disability benefits.

HF 567 (Olsen): TRA and First Class City Teacher Retirement Funds; Designation of Beneficiary for Optional Annuity. Larry Martin went over the memo and discussion followed. The bill authorizes certain types of survivor benefit coverage to be provided to a designated beneficiary instead of only a surviving spouse. It also requires public pension funds to provide information concerning optional annuity forms and requires the signature of the spouse of a member on the retirement annuity.

Leo Reding  
Secretary

Eleanor Diebel  
Staff Secretary