

# Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

55 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

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## SENATE MEMBERS

Senator Julie A. Rosen, Chair  
Senator Sandra L. Pappas, Secretary  
Senator Gary H. Dahms  
Senator Nick A. Frentz  
Senator John R. Jasinski  
Senator Warren Limmer  
Senator David H. Senjem

## HOUSE MEMBERS

Representative Tim O'Driscoll, Vice Chair  
Representative Tony Albright  
Representative Sarah Anderson  
Representative Mary Murphy  
Representative Roz Peterson  
Representative Paul Thissen  
Representative Bob Vogel

## COMMISSION STAFF

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**May 8, 2018**

Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building

## MINUTES

### Call to order:

Senator Julie A. Rosen, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

### Commission Members Present:

Representatives Albright, Anderson, Murphy, Nelson, O'Driscoll, Peterson, and Vogel  
Senators Dahms, Frentz, Jasinski, Limmer, Pappas, Rosen, and Senjem

### Agenda Items

#### **Amendment S2620-10A: Maplewood Firefighters Relief Association; Termination and dissolution.**

Sen. Charles Wiger and Rep. Peter Fischer presented and testified in support of the amendment.

Brian Rice, representing the Maplewood Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association, answered questions regarding the amounts of benefits that will be paid to the members and the remaining assets.

Reid LeBeau, representing the City of Maplewood, testified that the city has contributed \$2 million since 1999.

Mr. Rice testified that Chapter 424B sets forth the manner for dissolution and because the relief association will be dissolved, there would not be an entity to receive Department of Revenue reimbursement of supplemental benefits. For Maplewood, this applies to about 6-8 firefighters who are over 50 and eligible to receive the supplemental benefit.

Melinda Coleman, Maplewood City Manager, testified that the funds could be used for PERA expenses and any other public safety purposes; PERA purposes first, then fire equipment, trucks, etc.

Rep. O'Driscoll moved amendment S2620-10A be recommended for adoption in the 2018 omnibus pension bill in the House committee process. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**Amendment S2620A1: Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations: Disposition of special fund assets upon dissolution; lump-sum service pension maximum for overfunded relief associations.**

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, distributed a brief memo on the amendment.

Dave Dreelan, Plymouth Deputy Fire Chief, testified on behalf of the City of Plymouth in opposition to amendment S2620A1. Deputy Chief Dreelan informed members that Plymouth currently has six career firefighters and 66 paid on-call firefighters, and is considering a proposal to hire six more career firefighters, another three in 2019, and then another three in 2020. They will still depend on on-call firefighters to work shifts and at the current time, there is no intention to fire paid on-call firefighters.

Gary Carlson, Intergovernmental Relations Director, League of Minnesota Cities, testified that while he is not directly representing the City of Brainerd, but he contacted them and as of last week, Brainerd has no specific legislative position on this issue.

Ms. Lenczewski reviewed amendment S2620-14A, which is drafted similarly to the second part of the S2620A1 amendment, does not require ratification, and is tailored to include Plymouth but may also include other municipalities.

Rachel Barth, Deputy Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, confirmed that the S2620-14A would affect other communities: Maplewood, Eden Prairie, Brainerd, and Plymouth.

Sen. Pappas moved amendment S2620-14A, amended on page 1, line 6, as follows: after "9,500" insert "or more", be recommended for adoption in the 2018 omnibus pension bill in the House committee process. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Anderson moved amendment S2620A1, Sec. 28, be recommended for adoption in the 2018 omnibus pension bill in the House committee process. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**Amendment S2620-11A: Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations; Moratorium on relief association dissolutions and plan conversions; relief association work group created.**

Rep. Anderson moved to amend the S2620-11A amendment, Sec. 30, on page 2, line 19, as follows: after "Association" insert ", who shall not be retaliated against or considered a lobbyist under state law by their municipality or relief association for their participation in the work group. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Anderson moved 2620-11A, as amended, be recommended for adoption in the 2018 omnibus pension bill in the House committee process. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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Lisa Diesslin, Commission Assistant