

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

55 State Office Building

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

St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

HOUSE MEMBERS

Representative Mary Murphy, Chair
Representative Mike Freiberg
Representative Kaohly Her
Representative Michael V. Nelson
Representative Tim O'Driscoll
Representative Ruth Richardson
Representative Bob Vogel

SENATE MEMBERS

Senator Julie A. Rosen, Vice 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

COMMISSION STAFF

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director
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March 12, 2019

Room G-3, State Capitol

MINUTES

Call to order:

Rep. Mary Murphy, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Representatives Freiberg, Murphy, O'Driscoll, and Vogel
Senators Dahms, Frentz, Pappas, Rosen, and Senjem

Commission Members Absent:

Representatives Her, Nelson, and Richardson, and Senators Jasinski and Limmer

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of March 5, 2019, meeting minutes.

Sen. Senjem moved approval of the March 5, 2019, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Report of the Fire State Aid Work Group.

Shana Morse, Division Manager, PERA, presented the recommendations of the work group.

Jim McCoy, Fire Chief, Austin Fire Department, and member of the work group, testified in support of the work group recommendations and proposed legislation.

Anne Finn, Asst. Inter-Govt. Relations Director, League of Minnesota Cities, and member of the work group, testified in support of the work group recommendations and proposed legislation.

Bruce Hemstad, Secretary, Bemidji Fire Relief Association, and member of the work group, testified in support of the work group recommendations and proposed legislation.

LCPR19-030 was laid over for future consideration.

HF 483 (Poppe); SF 570 (Sparks): City of Austin fire state aid alternative allocation extension.

Rep. Jeanne Poppe and Sen. Dan Sparks presented and testified in support of their bill.

Tom Dankert, Director of Administrative Services, City of Austin, testified in support of the bill.

Chad Burkitt, Analyst, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo on the bill.

Sen. Pappas moved amendment H0483-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Pappas moved HF483/SF570, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2019 Omnibus Pension Bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF 2373 (Murphy, by request): State Auditor's Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group bill.

State Auditor Julie Blaha reviewed the history behind the work group and testified in support of the bill.

Rose Hennessy Allen, Pension Director, Office of the State Auditor, reviewed the bill and testified in support of the bill.

Bruce Hemstad, Secretary, Bemidji Fire Relief Association, and member of the work group, testified in support of the bill.

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

The bill was laid over for future consideration.

Report of the Work Group on Relief Association Conversions and Dissolutions: Presentation of report for information, discussion, and direction.

Ms. Lenczewski presented the summary of the work group report.

Tim Wiebe, Chaska Fire Department Fire Chief, and member of the work group representing the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, testified in support of the recommendations of the work group.

Mark Rosenblum, Golden Valley Fire Department Firefighter, Minnesota State Fire Departments Association President, and work group member representing active volunteer firefighters covered by a defined benefit relief association, testified in support of the recommendations of the work group.

Nyle Zikmund testified regarding the prevalence of volunteer firefighter relief association overfunding and the reluctance of municipalities to raise benefit levels.

Brian Rice testified that none of the three work group recommendations resolves the issues of relief association overfunding and improving firefighter benefits.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lisa Diesslin, Commission Assistant