



February 19, 2013

Room 112 Capitol

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

MINUTES

Call to order:

Senator Sandra Pappas, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Representatives Benson, Kahn, Lesch, Morgan, M. Murphy, Nelson, and O' Driscoll
Senators Goodwin, Hayden, Johnson, Pappas, Rosen, Saxhaug, and Thompson

Sen. Pappas indicated that the Commission will assemble two omnibus retirement bills, one for non-controversial and technical items and the second containing bills with fiscal or substantial policy impact.

Agenda Items

Approval of prior Commission meeting minutes.

Sen. Rosen moved approval of the February 12, 2013, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 100 (Johnson); H.F. 495 (Sanders): PERA; Revising time limits for certain coverage exclusions

Senator Johnson presented and testified in support of her bill.

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that the proposed legislation is in response to a request from the counties, that PERA is not opposed to the change, and that the language of the bill is similar to a provision contained in the PERA administrative bill, S.F. 277; H.F. 342.

Edward Burek, Deputy Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, recommended that the Commission consider the proposed legislation in the context of S.F. 277; H.F. 342.

Rep. Murphy moved to table S.F. 100 (Johnson); H.F. 495 (Sanders). **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 277 (Pappas); H.F. 342 (Nelson): PERA; Administrative provisions.

Mr. Burek reviewed the staff memo and potential amendments.

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified in support of the bill, in opposition to amendments S0277-1A and -4A, and not opposed to amendment S0277-5A.

Rep. Nelson moved amendment S0277-5A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Non-Agenda Item

Amendments to the Commission Rules.

Rep. Nelson moved to amend the Rules of Operation of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, as follows: Section 5.0, second paragraph, first sentence, strike "6" and insert "8"; Section 5.0, second paragraph, third sentence, strike "three" and insert "four" in both places; and Section 8.0, second sentence, strike "four" and insert "five" in both places. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Agenda Items, continued

S.F. 277 (Pappas); H.F. 342 (Nelson): PERA; Administrative provisions, continued.

Sen. Goodwin moved S.F. 277/H.F. 342, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into Omnibus Pension Bill I. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 276 (Pappas); H.F. 344 (Nelson): PERA; Privatized public hospital administrative provisions.

Mr. Burek reviewed the staff memo and potential amendments.

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, reviewed and testified in support of the bill and amendments S0276-1A, -3A, and 4A, and in opposition to amendment S0276-2A.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment S0276-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Murphy moved amendment S0276-3A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Murphy moved amendment S0276-4A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Benson moved S.F. 276/H.F. 344, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into Omnibus Pension Bill I. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 273 (Pappas); H.F. 343 (Nelson): PERA; Salary definition modification.

Mary Most Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, reviewed and testified in support of the bill, and requested that the Commission consider an oral amendment to delete “personal” on line 2.26.

Rep. Murphy moved to amend S.F. 273/H.F. 343 on line 2.26, delete “personal”. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. O'Driscoll moved to amend S.F. 273/H.F. 343 on line 2.26, after "annual" insert “leave”. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Brian Rice, representing the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters and the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, testified in opposition to the bill.

Kerry Sorenson, AFSCME Council 65 Executive Board and Local 737, testified in opposition to the bill.

Julie Bleyhl, AFSCME Council 5, testified in opposition to the bill.

Sarah Lewerenz, AFSCME Council 65, testified in opposition to the bill.

Lawrence A. Martin, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill.

Ms. Vanek testified in support of amendments S0273-3A and -4A.

Rep. Nelson moved amendment S0273-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Nelson moved amendments S0273-3A and -4A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Ms. Vanek testified that the proposed language 2.28 is intended to apply to the person donating benevolent leave.

Sen. Hayden moved to amend S.F. 273/H.F. 343, as follows: page 2, line 21, after “or” insert “collective”. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Pappas laid the bill over and asked Ms. Vanek to work with the stakeholders on the issues.

S.F. xxxx; H.F. 628 (Murphy, M.): MSRS; Administrative provisions.

David Bergstrom, Executive Director, MSRS, explained and testified in support of the bill.

Mr. Burek reviewed the staff memo and potential amendments.

In response to a question from members, Ms. Vanek testified that PERA replaced the one-year of marriage requirement with a vesting requirement in 2007 for PERA-P&F.

Mr. Bergstrom testified in support of amendment H0628-2A.

Rep. Nelson moved amendment H0628-2A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Kahn moved amendment H0628-6A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Saxhaug moved amendment H0628-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Lesch moved S.F. xxx/H.F. 628, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into Omnibus Pension Bill I. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 489 (Pappas); H.F. 629 (Murphy, M.): Revising or repealing obsolete local police or paid fire relief association statutes.

Mr. Martin reviewed the staff memo and potential amendments, and distributed amendment S0489-4A.

Rep. Benson moved amendment S0489-4A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Morgan moved amendment S0489-2A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Brian Rice testified in opposition to amendment S0489-3A.

Rep. Murphy moved S.F. 489/H.F. 629, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into Omnibus Pension Bill I. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.