

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

600 State Office Building

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St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

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February 15, 2022

REMOTE MEETING

MINUTES

Call to order:

Senator Julie Rosen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted through Zoom and broadcast via YouTube.

Commission Members Present:

Representatives Berg, Frederick, Her, Murphy, Nelson, O'Driscoll, and Rasmusson
Senators Frentz, Howe, Jasinski, Pappas, Rarick, Rosen, and Senjem

Agenda Items

SF 2614 (Anderson); HF 2690 (Lueck): MSRS; Military service purchases similar to the PERA provisions for service credit purchases that are not federally protected.

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR), reviewed the staff summary of the bill.

Sen. Bruce Anderson and Rep. Dale Lueck presented and testified in support of their bill.

Mike LeDoux, President of Minnesota State Patrol Trooper's Association and Chair of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Association, testified in support of the bill.

Glen Bihler, State Patrol Trooper, former Sauk Rapids police officer, and US Army veteran, testified in support of the bill.

Erin Leonard, Executive Director, Minnesota State Retirement System, testified that MSRS is neutral on the bill and that they are able to administer the provisions of the bill.

Letters in support of the bill were submitted by:

Wayne Hatlestad, President, Minnesota Conservation Officers Association
Caleb Silgjord, Vice President, Minnesota Conservation Officers Association
James Kotten, State Trooper and Marine Corps veteran
Matthew J. Frericks, veteran and law enforcement officer
Rep. Dale Lueck, containing the text of emails he received from two veterans

SF2614 / HF2690 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus pension and retirement bill.

SF 2591 (Osmek); HF 2964 (Hertaus): MSRS; Permits the survivor of a deceased state employee to purchase service credit to receive an annuity death benefit.

Mr. Burkitt reviewed the staff summary of the bill.

Erin Leonard, Executive Director, Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), testified that if the bill passes Ms. Morimoto could start collecting her benefit immediately, the bill allows for retroactive payment to January 1, 2021, and Ms. Morimoto's payment would be \$385.

Sen. David Osmek presented and testified in support of his bill.

Susan Morimoto, surviving spouse of Henry Morimoto, testified in support of the bill.

Devin Bruce, Public Affairs Coordinator, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE), testified in support of the bill.

SF2591 / HF2964 was laid over for possible inclusion in the 2022 omnibus retirement bill.

Report of the 911 Telecommunicator Pension Benefits Working Group

Mr. Burkitt reviewed the presentation titled "*Report of the 911 Telecommunicator Pension Benefits Working Group; Presentation to the Commission.*"

Darlene Pankonie, Chair of the Working Group and President of the Minnesota Chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications and National Emergency Number Association, provided an overview of the working group and urged members to consider the 911 telecommunicator public safety issues that continue to arise.

Wade Laszlo, advisor to the working group, retired Detention Deputy with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and retiree member of the PERA Correctional Plan, testified that the correctional officers are opposed to adding 911 telecommunicators to the PERA Correctional Plan.

Doug Anderson, Executive Director, Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), testified that the cost of transferring past service from PERA General to PERA Correctional is estimated at \$79 million.

The Minnesota Correctional Officer Retirement Association (MNCORA) Executive Board and Advisory Committee submitted a letter in opposition to adding 911 telecommunicators to PERA Correction.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.