

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

600 State Office Building

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St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

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March 8, 2022

REMOTE MEETING

MINUTES

Call to order:

Vice Chair Nelson 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, Murphy, Nelson, O'Driscoll, and Rasmusson
Senators Frentz, Howe, Jasinski, Pappas, Rarick, Rosen, and Senjem

Commission Members Absent:

Representative Her

Agenda Items

Approval of meeting minutes

Sen. Senjem moved approval of the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Senjem moved approval of the February 8, 2022, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Agenda Item

SF 3402 (Bigham); HF 3777 (Huot): PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan; Adds vesting alternatives, removes pension reduction for retiring during the first five years of joining the plan, modifies procedures for joining the plan.

Sen. Karla Bigham presented and testified in support of her bill and withdrew Amendment S3402-2A.

Sen. Pappas moved Amendment S3402-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

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

Doug Anderson, Executive Director, Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), testified that the PERA Board does not have an official position, but the PERA SVF Advisory Board met March 2 and reached a consensus to support the bill.

A letter in support of the bill was submitted by Captain Todd Tokar, Newport Fire Department.

Sen. Pappas moved SF3702 / HF3777, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2022 omnibus pension and retirement bill.

Sen. Pappas withdrew her motion.

SF3402 / HF3777, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus pension and retirement bill.

SF 3542 (Rosen); HF 4018 (Nelson, M.): State Board of Investment; Makes administrative and technical changes clarifying the classification of SBI professional employees.

Chad Burkitt, Analyst, LCPR, reviewed the staff summary of the bill.

John Mulé, Director of Legal and Policy Services, State Board of Investment (SBI), presented and testified in support of the bill.

Devin Bruce, Public Affairs Coordinator, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE), testified that MAPE does not currently have a position on the bill.

SF3542 / HF4018 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus pension and retirement bill.

Sen. Rosen assumed the Chair.

SF 3499 (Rarick); HF 3704 (Sundin): MSRS Correctional; Authorizes the transfer of service credit from the MSRS general plan to the correctional plan upon payment by an eligible member.

Rep. Mike Sundin presented and testified in support of his bill.

Sen. Rarick testified in support of his bill.

Mr. Burkitt reviewed the staff summary.

Maerene Lewis, Corrections Transitions Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections (DOC), the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Sen. Pappas moved SF3499 / HF3704, as amended, be recommended to pass and be incorporated into the 2022 omnibus pension and retirement bill.

Sen. Pappas withdrew her motion.

Mr. Bruce testified in support of the bill.

Holly Dayton, Legislative Liaison, Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), testified that MSRS will accept the remitted contributions and process the service credit if the bill is passed and becomes law.

Connie Jones, Assistant Commissioner, DOC, testified that the Department supports the bill.

SF3499 / HF3704 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus pension and retirement bill.

SF 3540 (Rosen); HF 4017 (Nelson, M.): State Auditor's Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group bill.

Ms. Lenczewski reviewed the staff summary and Amendment S3540-1A.

State Auditor Julie Blaha presented and testified in support of the bill and in opposition to the amendment.

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

Eric Bullen, Albertville Fire Chief, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) board member, and member of the working group, testified in support of the bill.

Aaron Johnston, Coon Rapids Fire Relief Association Treasurer, and member of the working group, testified in support of the bill.

SF3540 / HF4017 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus pension and retirement bill.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.