



S.F. 2192
(Kelley)

H.F. 2365
(Latz)

Executive Summary of Commission Staff Materials

Affected Pension Plan(s): Public Employees Police and Fire Plan
Relevant Provisions of Law: Minnesota Statutes, Section 353.657
General Nature of Proposal: Provide a Surviving Spouse Benefit to Spouse of PERA-P&F Member Killed in Iraq, Despite not Meeting Length of Marriage Requirement
Date of Summary: April 20, 2005

Specific Proposed Changes

- Provide a surviving spouse benefit to spouse of PERA-P&F member Killed in Iraq, despite not meeting one-year length of marriage requirement.

Policy Issues Raised by the Proposed Legislation

1. Requires waiver of one-year length of marriage requirement in non-police duty deaths.
2. Question of need; unclear what other benefits this surviving spouse may receive.
3. Cost of the benefit is in excess of \$346,478.
4. PERA-P&F's current financial condition, plan has a 6.55 percent contribution deficiency.
5. If a benefit is provided, the issue of who should pay for that benefit. Commission might conclude that providing for survivors of individuals killed in Iraq should be provided by federal government, or by the city of St. Louis Park.
6. If a benefit is provided, an issue is whether to provide that benefit retroactive to the death of the PERA-P&F member.

Potential Amendments

Amendment LCPR05-250 provides some technical clean-up and adds retroactivity back to the date of the PERA-P&F member's death.

Amendment LCPR05-251 is identical to LCPR05-250, except that it does not provide retroactivity.

Amendment LCPR05-252 includes the technical clean-up of LCPR05-250, and it also provides retroactivity and requires that the city of Saint Louis Park cover the cost of the benefit. Includes a local approval clause. Retroactivity could be removed by verbal amendment.

Amendment LCPR05-257, which could be used with LCPR05-250 or LCPR05-251, would allow the PERA Board to decide on this matter. The bill would not be effective unless approved by the PERA Board.