



March 31, 1989  
Room 112  
Capitol

6th Meeting

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

MINUTES

Senator Donald M. Moe, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 7:45 A.M.

Commission members present:

Senators Donald Moe, Steven Morse, Larry Pogemiller, Earl Renneke, and Gene Waldorf  
Representatives Robert A. Johnson, Gerald Knickerbocker, Rich O'Connor, Leo Reding, and Wayne Simoneau

A quorum was present.

Senator Moe noted that the first part of the agenda for this meeting included the agenda for the meeting of Friday, March 17, 1989. He further noted that considerable testimony was already taken on these items. He then asked Mr. Lawrence A. Martin, Executive Director of the Commission, to review the first five agenda items (S.F. 950; H.F. 689, S.F. 881; H.F. 1091, S.F. 806; H.F. 1167, S.F. 498; H.F. 568, and S.F. 795; H.F. 8) to refresh Commission members on the issues. Discussion followed.

Senator Moe moved approval of all five of these bills with amendments. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Senator Moe introduced S.F. 818 (Morse); H.F. 800 (Reding): PERA; General Exclusion of Volunteer Firefighters. Mr. Lawrence A. Martin, reviewed the staff memo on this bill. Discussion followed.

Representative Leo Reding presented a delete everything amendment to H.F. 800. Discussion followed.

James Hacking, Executive Director of PERA, noted that the PERA Board has not taken a position on this issue, reviewed the delete everything amendment, and spoke in support of the amendment.

Stan Peskar, League of MN Cities, spoke in support of the statewide plan and the delete everything amendment, but noted that the definition of a volunteer firefighter in the amendment, which is the Fair Labor Standards definition, will not eliminate some municipalities from coming back with local bills. The definition of a volunteer firefighter in the statewide bill would cover these municipalities.

Robert Wetherille, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Fire Association, spoke in support of the exclusion from PERA and noted that the members of the volunteer relief associations want to be excluded from PERA.

Mike Stocks, Vice President of Minnesota Professional Firefighters, spoke in support of the amendment but stated that his members have a problem with the definition of a volunteer firefighter in the bill and the amendment.

Rep. Phil Carruthers introduced Mr. Paul Holmlund, Finance Director of the City of Brooklyn Center. Mr. Holmlund noted that Brooklyn Center has a local bill to exclude their firefighters from PERA which they support. They do not agree with the definition of a volunteer firefighter in the bill or the amendment.

Discussion followed.

Members moved approval of S.F. 818; H.F. 800 with the delete everything amendment. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Phil Carruthers spoke in support of his local bill, H.F. 1343, if the definition of a volunteer firefighter in the statewide delete everything amendment is not appropriate for Brooklyn Center.

Sen. Moe laid over the local volunteer firefighter exclusion bills (S.F. 1024; H.F. 503, S.F. 183; H.F. 439, S.F. 310; H.F. 447, S.F. 635; H.F. 587, S.F. 693; H.F. 839, S.F. 792; H.F. 791, S.F. 1096; H.F. 1262, S.F. \_\_\_\_; H.F. 1343) temporarily.

Senator Moe introduced the seventh item on the agenda, S.F. 269 (Cohen); H.F. 9 (O'Connor): Police and Fire Funds; Retiree Board Representation for St. Paul Police and Fire, S.F. \_\_\_\_ ( ); H.F. 1044 (O'Connor): Police and Fire Funds; Level of Retiree Representation on Boards of Trustees Statewide, S.F. 268 (Cohen); H.F. 11 (O'Connor): Police and Fire Consolidation; Size of Membership Voting Majority.

**Rep. O'Connor spoke on behalf of S.F. 269; H.F. 9.**

**John Mercado, retiree Board member of the St. Paul Police Relief Association, testified in support of this bill. Discussion followed.**

**Frank Laws, President of the St. Paul Police Retiree Association, testified in support of this bill.**

**Dick Feider, Board member of the St. Paul Police Relief Association, testified in opposition of this bill.**

**George Jurgensen, President of the St. Paul Firefighters Retiree Association, testified in support of this bill.**

**Jim Thoemke, Secretary of the St. Paul Firefighters Relief Association, testified in opposition of this bill and noted that the active members should not have less than 50% representation on the Board of trustees.**

**Sen. Morse asked Rep. O'Connor if the intent of the bill was for proportional representation for the retirees on the board or to allow retiree representation on the board not to exceed 50%. Rep. O'Connor responded that he did not have a problem with amending the bill to read retiree representation would not exceed 50%.**

**Rep. Simoneau asked to have amendment LCPR9 included in the bill.**

**Members moved approval of S.F. 269; H.F. 9 with amendments. MOTION PREVAILED.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.**