



February 5, 2010

Room 107 Capitol

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

MINUTES

Call to order:

Senator Don Betzold, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Representatives Mary Murphy, Phyllis Kahn, Michael V. Nelson, Steve Smith, and Paul Thissen
Senators Don Betzold, Ann Lynch, Mary A. Olson, and Julie A. Rosen

Commission Members Absent:

Senator Sandra L. Pappas

Agenda Items

Revisor #10-5059: VFRA's; State Auditor's volunteer fire working group recommendations.

State Auditor Rebecca Otto testified in support of the bill and reviewed the substantive changes.

Rose Hennessey Allen, Pension Director, Office of the State Auditor, testified in support of the bill and reviewed the technical changes.

Rep. Thissen expressed concern that the municipal ratification changes in sections 1 and 2 could result in an increase in required municipal financial support without the municipality's approval.

Lawrence Martin, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, clarified that under Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 69.773, Subd. 6, if a relief association amends its articles of incorporation or bylaws without municipal ratification and the change results in additional required municipality financial support, the non-ratified change is no longer effective and automatically "rolls back" to the previous benefit ratified by the municipality.

Mr. Martin reviewed technical amendment 10-5059-1A.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment 10-5059-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Dave Ganfield, Apple Valley Relief Association Administrator, testified in support of the bill.

Nyle Zikmund, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, testified in support of the bill.

Rep. Murphy moved Revisor document 10-5059, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Approval of prior Commission meeting minutes.

Rep. Nelson moved approval of the January 13, 2009, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

LCPR09-080: PERA Volunteer Fire; Statewide plan administrative changes.

Mr. Martin reviewed the bill.

Rep. Murphy moved document LCPR09-080 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

LCPR09-081: PERA Volunteer Fire; Statewide plan expansion of service pension levels.

Mr. Martin reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill.

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified in support of the bill, and indicated that one volunteer fire group joined the plan at the \$750 service pension level, so the grandparent provision is necessary.

Nyle Zikmund, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, testified in support of the bill.

Anne Finn, Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director, League of Minnesota Cities, testified in support of the bill.

Rep. Murphy moved document LCPR09-081 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 889 (Betzold); H.F. xxx (S0889-E2): MSRS-Unclassified; Changes in membership transfer authority.

Mr. Martin reviewed the S0889-E2 engrossment of the amendments to S.F. 889 which were previously passed by the Commission.

Rep. Murphy moved S.F. 889, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

LCPR10-005: MSRS; Retirement-related administrative provisions

This item was not heard.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.