



February 28, 2012

Room 5 State Office Building

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

MINUTES

**Call to order:**

Senator Julie Rosen, Vice Chair of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:**

Representatives Phyllis Kahn, Mary Kiffmeyer, Mary Murphy, and Steve Smith  
Senators Roger Chamberlain, Theodore Daley, D. Scott Dibble, Sandra Pappas, and Julie Rosen

**Commission Members Absent:** Representative Morrie Lanning

**Agenda Items**

**H.F. 1539 (Poppe); S.F. 1295 (Sparks): TRA/MnSCU; MnSCU faculty member prospective and retroactive TRA coverage election.**

Rep. Jeanne Poppe presented and testified in support of her bill.

Michelle Benegas, the person affected by the bill, was present but did not testify.

Gary Janikowski, Assistant Director of Personnel, MnSCU, testified in support of the bill and that Metropolitan State University erred in not providing an election form to Ms. Benegas.

Edward Burek, Deputy Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed technical amendment H1539-1A.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment H1539-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF 1539/SF 1295, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**H.F. 1627 (Murphy, M.); S.F. 1475 (Stumpf): PERA; Service credit purchase; Uncredited Crookston Township public employment.**

Gerald Reitmeier, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Lawrence Martin, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo and potential amendments.

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified in support of the bill and to PERA's efforts to get information from Crookston Township. Ms. Vanek indicated that the required payment, if made by June 30, would be \$55,930. The employee contributions plus interest would be \$26,957, and the principal amount of the employee contributions (without interest) would be \$8,892.60.

Rep. Kahn moved amendment H1627-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Ms. Vanek testified that statutes allow PERA to certify a levy to the county auditor if an employer payment is not made.

Mr. Reitmeier requested additional time to make a member contribution, if required.

In response to Commission members' stated desire to hear from a representative of Crookston Township, staff was directed to draft a letter to Crookston Township.

HF 1627/SF 1475, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**H.F. 1168 (Smith); S.F. 854 (Bakk): PERA-SVFP; Additional municipal/independent nonprofit firefighting corporation contribution authority.**

Sen. Thomas M. Bakk and Rep. Smith presented and testified in support of their bill.

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

Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified in support of the bill.

HF 1168/SF 854 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**H.F. 1377 (Murphy, M.); S.F. 1114 (Reinert): PERA; Coverage for Seaway Port Authority of Duluth employees; purchase of prior service credit.**

Sen. Reinert testified in support of his bill.

John Kubow, Chief Financial Officer, Seaway Port Authority of Duluth, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. Martin reviewed the staff memo and amendment H1377-2A.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment H1377-2A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF 1377/SF 1114, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**Approval of prior Commission meeting minutes.**

Rep. Kahn moved approval of the February 21, 2012, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**H.F. 1554 (Murphy, M.); S.F. 928 (Rosen): State Auditor's 2011 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group recommendations.**

Mr. Martin reviewed the process of the State Auditor's working group and the staff memo on the bill.

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

Rep. Murphy moved amendment H1554-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

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

In response to members' concern about expanding salaried relief association officials to include municipal elected or appointed officials, Commission staff was directed to draft language to exclude those officials who are already compensated.

David J. Ganfield, Administrator, Apple Valley Fire Relief Association, testified in support of the bill.

HF 1554/SF 928, as amended, was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**H.F. 2391 (Murphy, M.); S.F. 1952 (Rosen): State Auditor's 2012 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group recommendations.**

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

HF 2391/SF 1952 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus retirement bill.

**Agenda Items Not Heard**

The following bills were withdrawn at the authors' request and were not heard:

H.F. 1688 (Kahn); S.F. 1403 (Pappas): MSRS; Early retirement incentive deadline waived; and H.F. 1712 (Hortman); S.F. 2015 (Kruse): TRA; Anoka-Hennepin teacher service credit purchase.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Lisa Diesslin, Commission Assistant