

S.F. 235

(Betzold)

H.F. 375

(Westerberg)

Executive Summary of Commission Staff Materials

<u>Affected Pension Plan(s):</u>	PERA-Police & Fire Retirement Plan
<u>Relevant Provisions of Law:</u>	Minnesota Statutes, Section 353.64
<u>General Nature of Proposal:</u>	Expands PERA-P&F Membership for Certain Civilian Department Employee/Firefighters
<u>Date of Summary:</u>	April 5, 2005

Specific Proposed Changes

- Allows civilian department employees of Blaine, Mounds View, or Spring Lake Park who are primarily assigned to firefighting duties to be a member of PERA-P&F rather than PERA-General

Policy Issues Raised by the Proposed Legislation

1. Appropriateness of including combination firefighter-civilian employees in public safety employee pension coverage.
2. Appropriateness in light of the availability of volunteer firefighter relief association coverage.
3. Appropriateness of the numerous minimum requirements for combination civilian-firefighter employment.
4. No clear disallowance of Spring Lake Park Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association coverage.
5. Appropriateness of New restrictions on duty disability coverage for combination employees.
6. Current Lack of a clear definition of a firefighter for PERA-P&F coverage.
7. Need for stricter PERA-P&F Duty and non-duty disability benefit eligibility requirements.

Potential Amendments

Technical Amendment:

Amendment LCPR05-104 clarifies language usage and style and properly positions the disability benefit restrictions in the disability position of PERA-P&F law.

Substantive Amendments:

Amendment LCPR05-105 broadens the firefighter certification authority beyond the Minnesota Fire Certification Board.

Amendment LCPR05-106 broadens the first responder certification authority beyond the National Registration Board.

Amendment LCPR05-107 eliminates a requirement for a qualifying firefighter that is either duplicative or contradictory.

Amendment LCPR05-108 prohibits concurrent PERA-P&F and Spring Lake Park volunteer Firefighter Relief Association coverage for combination civilian employees/firefighters.

Amendment LCPR05-109 adds definition of firefighter to PERA-P&F law comparable to police officer definition.

Amendment LCPR05-110 makes additional PERA-P&F disability program revisions not addressed in limited 2004 legislation.