



March 10, 2009
Room 107 Capitol

4th Meeting

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 7:05 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Representatives Mary Murphy, Phyllis Kahn, and Michael V. Nelson
Senators Don Betzold, Ann Lynch, Mary A. Olson, Sandra L. Pappas, and Julie A. Rosen

Commission Members Absent:

Representatives Steve Smith and Paul Thissen

Agenda Items

S.F. 197 (Skogen); H.F. 318 (Nornes): PERA; Service credit purchase for period of past due omitted contributions.

Sen. Dan Skogen testified in support of his bill.

Mr. Lawrence Martin, Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill.

Ms. Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that PERA has no issues or concerns with the bill.

Rep. Kahn moved S.F. 197/H.F. 318 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Amendment LCPR09-02A (Skogen): MSRS, PERA, TRA; Annuity application revocation and overpayment waiver; municipal liquor store employee.

Sen. Dan Skogen testified in support of his bill.

Ms. Sandra Barnhouse, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

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

Ms. Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that PERA does not oppose the bill, and that the PERA attorney has advised that under law the overpayments must be recovered.

Rep. Nelson moved to amend Amendment LCPR09-02A, as follows: page 1, line 6, delete "and may elect to have the recovery of"; page 1, line 7, delete "a retirement annuity overpayment waived as provided in paragraph (d)"; and page 2, delete lines 1 and 2" and directed staff to clean up the language if necessary. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Kahn moved to amend Amendment LCPR09-02A, as follows: page 1, line 7, delete "elections" and insert "election". **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Murphy moved Amendment LCPR09-02A, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 305 (Bakk); H.F. 122 (Dill): MSRS; Disability benefit application filing date deadline exception.

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

Sen. Thomas M. Bakk and Rep. David Dill testified in support of their bill.

Mr. David Jokela, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. David Bergstrom, Executive Director, MSRS, testified that the MSRS board supports the bill.

Rep. Murphy moved S.F. 305/H.F. 122 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 223 (Wiger); H.F. 231 (Lillie): MSRS, PERA; Teacher assistant retirement coverage exclusion option to qualify for deferred annuities augmentation.

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

Sen. Charles W. Wiger and Rep. Leon Lillie testified in support of their bill, and offered technical amendment A09-0098.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment A09-0098. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Ms. Kathryn Freimuth, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Ms. Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that PERA supports the bill.

Rep. Kahn moved S.F. 223/H.F. 231, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1311 (Hann); H.F. 1409 (Loon): PERA; Waive minimum service requirement for disability application; certain Hennepin County employee.

Mr. Edward Burek, Deputy Director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill.

Rep. Jenifer Loon and Sen. David W. Hann testified in support of their bill.

Ms. Beth Sulciner, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Ms. Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that PERA does not oppose the waiver, and informed members that current law prohibits Ms. Sulciner from purchasing service credit.

Sen. Pappas moved S.F. 1311/H.F. 1409 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 281 (Anderson/Pappas); H.F. 260 (Hausman): MFRA; Surviving spouse benefit eligibility specified.

Senators Ellen R. Anderson and Sandra L. Pappas testified in support of their bill.

Ms. Roberta Espey Griffin, the person affected by the bill, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. Walter Schirmer, Executive Secretary, Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association, testified in opposition to the bill.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment S0281-2A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Mr. Gene Ranieri, Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations Director, testified in opposition to the bill.

The proposed legislation failed for lack of a motion with a quorum present.

S.F. 605 (Jungbauer); H.F. 757 (Murphy, M. by request): DOT Pilots; Transportation department aircraft pilot disability and retirement provisions modification.

Mr. Burek reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill and discussed delete-all amendment S0605-1A.

Karin L Van Dyck, Labor Relations Manager, Department of Transportation, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. David Bergstrom, Executive Director, MSRS, testified in support of the bill and in support of amendment S0605-1A.

Rep. Murphy moved amendment S0605-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Murphy moved S.F. 605/H.F. 757, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 669 (Betzold); H.F. 741 (Kahn): MFRA, MPRA, PERA; Permitting Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association and Minneapolis Police Relief Association membership in the Public Employees Retirement Association.

Mr. Burek reviewed the staff memo and policy issues raised by the bill and discussed delete-all amendment S0669-1A.

Mr. Brian Rice, General Counsel, Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association and Minneapolis Police Relief Association, testified in support of the bill and in support of amendment S0669-1A, and in opposition to amendment S0669-2A.

Mr. Walter Schirmer, Executive Secretary, Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. Larry Ward, President, Minneapolis Police Relief Association, testified in support of the bill, in support of amendments S0669-1A, -3A, -4A and -5A, and in opposition to amendment S0669-2A.

Ms. Mary Vanek, Executive Director, PERA, testified that PERA does not oppose the bill, does support amendments S0669-1A and 4A, and does not oppose amendment S0669-5A.

Mr. Gene Ranieri, Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations Director, testified in support of the local approval clause amendment S0669-2A.

Rep. Kahn moved amendment S0669-1A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Kahn moved amendment S0669-4A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Rep. Kahn moved amendment S0669-5A. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Pappas moved S.F. 669/H.F. 741, as amended, be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 750 (Betzold); H.F. 982 (Murphy, M.): MSRS; Revise allowable service credit for job-share participants.

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

Mr. Paul Larson, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Management and Budget, testified in support of the bill and provided handout materials.

Mr. Richard Kolodziejski, Legislative Affairs Director, MAPE, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. David Bergstrom, Executive Director, MSRS, testified that while the board has no position on the bill, it appears that these employees were treated inequitably. Mr. Bergstrom said the actuarial cost would be approximately \$281,000.

Sen. Pappas moved S.F. 750/H.F. 982 be recommended to pass and be included in the omnibus pension bill. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Approval of prior Commission meeting minutes.

Rep. Kahn moved approval of the March 6, 2009, meeting minutes. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.