

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD
100 N Park, Rm 218
Helena MT 59620

Board Legislative Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 1, 2011
10:30 am

Committee Members (present via telephone):

Dianna Porter, Chair
John Nielsen
Terrence Smith

Other Board Members (present via telephone):

Darcy Halpin
Scott Moore

Staff:

Roxanne Minnehan
Melanie Symons
Barbara Quinn
Patricia Davis
Renaë Justice
Mike O'Connor
Jenny Weigand
Flora Sebens

Public:

Ralph Pomnichowski (present via telephone)

I. Roll Call

II. Public/Member Comment – No public comment.

III. Approval of February 22, 2011 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Board Legislative Committee meeting of February 22, 2011, were presented.

Motion: Committee Chairwoman Dianna Porter moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011, Board Legislative Committee meeting with corrections.

Second: Committee Member Terrence Smith

Vote: 3/0

IV. Legislation Requiring Board Position

A. **LC0492** – *Generally Revise Retirement Systems – Rep Wayne Stahl*
Ms. Minnehan had nothing new to report.

V. Legislation Update

- A. **HB 192** – *Adjust Exempt Retirement Amounts for Individual Income Tax* – Rep Jerry O’Neil
Ms. Minnehan had nothing new to report.
- B. **HB 231** – *Repeal Requirements for Municipalities to Hire Career Paid Firefighters* – Rep Randy Brodehl
Ms. Minnehan had nothing new to report.
- C. **HB 317** – *Sunset Statutory Appropriations Over Certain Periods* – Rep Rob Cook
Ms. Minnehan had nothing new to report.
- D. **HB508** – *Require Payment of Partial Salary to Injured Rural Firefighter* – Rep Mary McNally
This bill was transmitted to the Senate on February 22, 2011.
- E. **HB597** – *Prohibit retired members from being members of SRS, GWPORS, PERS; increases member contributions for all members in PERS, SRS and GWPORS* – Rep Scott Reichner
This bill is scheduled for hearing on March 3, 2011 in the House State Administration at 8:00 a.m.
- F. **SB 113** – *Transfer Statutory Excess Retirement Funds in Trust by School Districts to TRS/PERS* – Senator Larry Jent
This bill was transmitted to the House on February 22, 2011.
- G. **SB 120** – *Publishing of Appointed Members to all State Agency Boards* – Rep. John Brenden
There is a hearing scheduled in the House State Administration on March 4, 2011, at 8:00 a.m.
- H. **SB 223** – *Revise Volunteer Firefighter Pensions* – Sen Ryan Zinke
This bill was referred to the House Business and Labor Committee on February 22, 2011. Mr. O’Conner asked why the Board moved to oppose this bill on February 15, 2011. Committee Member Terrence Smith explained that the way the bill was originally written stated that it wanted to give the Board the ability to adjust the benefit as they saw fit and the Board wanted to leave that responsibility with the Legislature. Mr. O’Connor stated that there was an amendment made to the bill that made it a definitely determinable benefit so the Board would have to act on the evaluation of the actuary. Ms. Barbara Quinn noted that the bill was also originally written for a group that it does not impact. Mr. O’Connor recommended that with the amendment it would be best if we appeared as an informational witness, versus an opponent.

Motion: *Committee Member John Nielsen moved to change the position on SB223 to be an information witness versus opposing the bill.*

Second: *Committee Member Terrence Smith*

Vote: 3/0

- I. **SB 229** – *Revise Laws Relating to State-Tribal Coop Agreements Act and PERS – Jon Sonju*
This bill was transmitted to the House on February 17, 2011.
- J. **SB 328** – *Require PERS new hires to be in DC Plan – Sen Lewis*
This bill was re-referred to Senate Finance and Claims Committee on February 19, 2011. Committee Member Terrence Smith asked if the staff had heard anything about this bill. Mr. O’Connor stated that there is a PEPSCO meeting this afternoon where he might be able to obtain information.
- K. **LC1240** – *Creating an annuity benefit program and closing existing state public retirement systems – Rep Wayne Stahl*
Ms. Minnehan had nothing new to report.

VI. PERB Legislation

- A. **HB 70** – *General Revisions Bill – Rep Mike Menahan*
This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate State Administration on March 9, 2011, at 3:00 p.m.
- B. **HB 119** – *VFCA Revision Bill – Rep. Gordon Hendrick*
This bill scheduled for hearing in Senate State Administration on March 4, 2011, at 3:00 p.m.
- C. **HB 122** – *PERS Funding Bill – Rep Sue Malek*
Chairwoman Dianna Porter asked if HB122 was still being classified as an Appropriation bill and if HB135 was still classified as a Revenue bill. Ms. Symons responded that is what it is listed on LAWS, but noted they have not been referred to another committee. She indicated that she had spoken to Representative Reichner who had talked to Speaker Milburn and he was assured that these bills were still alive.
- D. **HB 134** – *GWPORS Funding Bill – Rep Carolyn Squires*
This bill is scheduled for hearing in Senate State Administration on March 11, 2011.
- E. **HB 135** – *SRS Funding Bill – Rep Carolyn Squires*
This bill is still being classified as a Revenue Bill but nothing has happened to date.

Discussion Items

VII. Other Retirement Legislation

- A. Utah Hybrid Plan
Ms. Minnehan had nothing to report on the Utah Hybrid Plan.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Chairwoman Dianna Porter. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.