



Date: April 11, 2019
 To: PERA Board of Trustees
 From: Amy Strenge, Policy Coordinator
 Subject: Legislative Update

The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) is a bi-partisan, joint commission consisting of seven members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The LCPR provides oversight over the state’s pension plans by considering and approving legislation impacting the pension funds. Bills recommended by the LCPR are compiled into a single omnibus bill, which then travels through the committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate. Currently those committees are Government Operations in the House and State Government Policy and Finance and Elections in the Senate. The bill may need to be heard in additional committees such as State Government Finance in the House and Finance in the Senate. After the omnibus bill passes through the legislative process, the bill receives a final vote on the House and Senate Floor in order to be sent to the Governor for signature.

The legislative session began on January 8 and must conclude by May 20. The LCPR began meeting on February 26 and has met weekly since. As of April 2, 2019, the LCPR has not passed HF 2632/ SF 2583, the 2019 Omnibus Retirement bill. Below is the status of the Boards’ recommendations and other bills that impact PERA.

Bill	Board Recommendations	Included in HF 2683/ SF 2583
HF 2633/ SF 2584	Makes permanent the phased retirement option (PRO) program currently set to sunset June 30, 2019.	✓
HF 2598/ SF 2490	Revises the Minneapolis contribution for the Minneapolis Police and Firefighter Association merger to be a fixed amount.	✓
HF xxxx/ SF xxxx	Includes administrative changes recommended by the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Advisory Board.	
Other PERA Related Bills		
HF 549/ SF 1444	Enables military veterans to purchase service outside of PERA employer employment. The bill, with some modifications, in essence renews a provision that sunset in 2013 with adjustments for administrative costs and limits the amount of service credit.	✓
HF 2310/ SF 2366	Allows and directs the process for a relief association to leave the SVF Plan.	✓
HF 2512/ SF 2515	Modifies the State’s contribution to \$16 million from \$6 million and the City of Minneapolis’ contribution from \$31 million to \$21 million for the MERF merger. PERA receives a total of \$37 million divided between the City of Minneapolis and the State.	✓

HF 2387/ SF 2488	Extends the \$13 million in state aid to local governments to fund the 1997 increased employer contributions to PERA, which is set to expire in 2020.	✓
HF 1738/ SF 2022	Requires the LCPR to study the current benefits available to disabled or injured police officers.	
HF 1103/ SF xxxx	Mandates annual stress testing for the State's pension funds.	
HF xxxx/ SF 2513	Provides for Correctional Plan coverage for probation officers meeting certain requirements.	