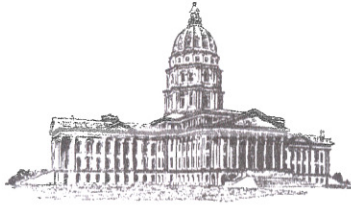


State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

27487 Wells Creek Rd.  
Wamego, KS 66547-1867  
(785) 456-9799

State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-7310  
ron.highland@house.ks.gov



Ron Highland, DVM, PhD  
Representative, 51st District

Committee Assignments

Chair: Joint Committee on Administrative  
Rules and Regulations  
Chair: Agriculture  
Member: Commerce, Labor and Economic  
Development  
Rural Vitalization

March 11, 2019

House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee

Ref: HB 2329

Mr. Chairman and Committee members:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to appear before you as a proponent of HB 2329. This bill in its simplest terms increases the contribution rate for employees of the Kansas Department of Education. The bill also increases the employee's salaries by an identical amount to meet obligations stated within the Kansas Constitution.

The reasoning for offering such a mandate is directly related to the unfunded liability of the KPERS system. Currently, the largest portion of unfunded liability is within the "teacher's" portion of the plan. The last I checked, their portion accounted for about seven million dollars of the more than nine million dollars of unfunded liability. Something must be done to ensure the health and longevity of the overall pension system in our state.

My preference would be for those contributions by both the employee and employer be paid quarterly to the KPERS fund by mandate. This would mean that the state contributions would no longer be available for legislative or executive manipulation that allows either partial payments, no payment, or delayed payments.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald L. Highland".

Ronald L. Highland, Dist. 51  
Kansas House of Representatives