

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON KPERS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharon Schwartz at 8:00 a.m. on February 9, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Richard Carlson - Absent
Representative Margaret Long - Excused
Representative Robert Olson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD)
Carol Bertram, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Glen n Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS)
Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Peace Officers Association
Dennis Phillips, Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters
John Bottenburg, Kansas Sheriffs Association
Brian Brunkow

Others attending:

See attached list

There was discussion as to if the Select Committee on KPERS is an exempt committee or a non-exempt committee. It was determined that clarification from the Speaker of the House will be necessary in order for the committee to work the bills assigned to it and meet its deadlines.

The committee minutes of January 29, 2009 were mailed electronically to each member. Representative Schwartz, Chair, asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. However, since a number of the committee members had not yet had an opportunity to review the minutes, it was agreed that hard copies would be distributed through the mail and the minutes would be approved at the next meeting.

Representative Schwartz, Chair, opened the hearing on **HB 2072 - Earning limits for certain members of the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system.**

Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Employee Retirement System (KPERS), presented background information as to the effects of **HB 2072**, and its fiscal impact (Attachment 1). He explained how **HB 2072** would raise the earnings limitation for Tier II members of the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System receiving disability benefits.

Questions and answers followed.

Proponents:

Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association, appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2072** (Attachment 2). He stated the current \$10,000 limit has been in place since the inception of the Tier II KP&F retirement program in 1989 without any adjustment. He encouraged the committee to do the right thing and amend it to eliminate the cap entirely by deleting lines 19-28 on page 3 of the bill. He referred to a graph which reflects the earnings and the potential earnings for a KP&F retiree over a 20 year period (Attachment 3).

Dennis Phillips, Lobbyist for Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters, appeared in support of **HB 2072** (Attachment 4). He said the bill would raise the cap from \$10,000 to \$20,000 under the Tier II of the Kansas Police and Fire Fighters pension system. He asked the committee to consider removing the earning limitation all together. That disabled fire and police officers under Tier II of KP&F should not have their pension reduced for working to support their families after being injured in the line of duty protecting their communities.

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John Bottenberg, Kansas Sheriffs Association, appeared in support of **HB 2072**. He submitted brief written testimony (Attachment 5).

Bryan Rosner a KP&F Tier II medically retired Firefighters from Shawnee Kansas submitted written testimony only in support of **HB 2072** (Attachment 6)

Questions were directed to Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Employee Retirement System (KPERS), who answered each one.

Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB 2072**.

Representative Schwartz, Chair, opened the hearing on **HB 2073 - Authorization for purchase KPERS service credit for certain service as journeyman above apprenticeship for certain teachers.**

Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Employee Retirement System (KPERS), presented background information as to the effects of **HB 2073**, and its fiscal impact (Attachment 7). He explained how the bill would allow the purchase of KPERS participating service credit for work experience that is necessary to obtain certain technical or vocational teacher certifications.

Questions and answers followed.

Proponent:

Brian Brunkow appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2073** (Attachment 8). He stated no other teachers in Kansas are required by state regulations to do work experience for employment and it is legally required for him regardless of his educational status.

Questions and answers followed.

Since there were no other conferees present to appear before the committee in regard to **HB 2073**, Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB 2073**.

Representative Schwartz, Chair, opened the hearing on **HB 2090 - KPERS, option for affiliation by counties for county detention officers; normal retirement date; associated costs.**

Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Employee Retirement System (KPERS), presented background information as to the effects of **HB 2090**, and its fiscal impact (Attachment 9). He explained that the bill establishes a new group within KPERS for detention officers employed by counties. The group would have different normal (unreduced) retirement age and early retirement provisions. Also, the Retirement System could implement the provisions of **HB 2090** within currently approved staffing and operating expenditure levels.

Questions and answers followed.

Since there were no conferees present to appear before the committee in regard to **HB 2090**, Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB 2090**.

KLRD staff reviewed each of the bills which had been assigned to the House Committee on KPERS as well as bills assigned to the Senate Committee on KPERS. These bills had been recommended by the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investment and Benefits.

Questions and answers followed.

KLRD staff distributed copies of a memorandum which described how the refunding of the State's general fund debt will provide budgetary relief. The memorandum also provided a graphical representation of the State's outstanding debt before and after the series of refunding along with the amortization schedule related to each financing (Attachment 10).

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Questions and answers followed.

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 13, at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Representative Schwartz, Chair