



Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

An Overview

Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director
Chad Burkitt, Analyst
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Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

- Established in the 1960s to have bi-partisan, bi-cameral review of pension and retirement issues, including legislation dealing with the State's public pension plans
- Commission consists of 14 legislators appointed at the start of each biennium:
 - 7 Representatives (limited to 5 from the majority)
 - 7 Senators (limited to 5 from the majority)
- **Executive Committee**
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

- **Staff: full-time non-partisan**
 - Executive Director
 - Analyst
 - Commission Assistant
- **Commission actuary: Deloitte Consulting**
- **Commission office: 55 State Office Building**
- **Commission website: www.lcpr.leg.mn**
- **Staff works with the Commission on meeting preparation and drafts legislation and background, policy, and legal analyses of bills and topics.**

Commission Agenda

- **The Commission typically meets weekly during the session to consider proposed legislation**
- **Chair sets the agenda and decides which bills to hear**
- **Types of bills:**
 - Amendments to the statutes to change benefits provided by the plans
 - Amendments for administrative or technical changes proposed by the pension funds
 - Amendments to the statutes to change contribution rates
 - Appropriations to help employers pay contribution rate increases
 - Amendments to statutes regarding volunteer firefighter relief associations

Statewide Public Pension Funds

- **Minnesota State Retirement System (“MSRS”)**
 - Covers state employees
 - Administers 5 pension plans and 2 defined contribution plans
- **Public Employees Retirement Association (“PERA”)**
 - Covers county and municipal employees
 - Administers 4 pension plans, including the statewide volunteer firefighter plan, and 1 defined contribution plan
- **Teachers Retirement Association (“TRA”)**
 - K-12 teachers and administrators
 - MN State faculty

Other Public Employee Retirement Plans

- **Saint Paul Teacher's Retirement Fund Association**
 - K-12 teachers and administrators in the Saint Paul School District.
- **Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations**
 - 610 independent relief associations providing retirement benefits to non-career firefighters around the state.

About Minnesota Pensions

- **Employees and Employers both contribute to their pension funds.**
- **Most pension benefits are paid out as monthly lifetime annuities.**
- **Pension eligibility, benefits, and contribution rates are defined in statute.**
- **Each fund (MSRS, PERA, TRA, St. Paul) has its own governing board and executive director.**
 - Board members and executive directors are fiduciaries.
- **Pension assets cannot be intermingled with other state funds and are for the exclusive benefit of the plan members.**

Investment of Assets: State Board of Investment

- **Assets are invested by the State Board of Investment (SBI).**
 - SBI members and executive director are fiduciaries.
- **SBI consists of the Governor, State Auditor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General**
- **Is advised by the Investment Advisory Council, which consists of 10 public members, the three executive directors of the pension funds, the MMB commissioner, and one employee representative**
- **As of June 30, 2018, the market value of all SBI invested assets was \$96.2 billion, of which 82% are public retirement fund assets.**

Recent Legislation

- **2018 Omnibus Pension Bill**
- **Stabilized plan funding**
- **Benefit reforms, including elimination of augmentation and changes to COLAs for retirees**
- **Increased contributions by employees and employers**
- **Reduced assumed rate of return on investments**
- **Appropriations for agencies, school districts and direct state aid to St. Paul Teachers and PERA Police and Fire**

LCPR Website – Homepage (www.lcpr.leg.mn)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR). The header features the organization's name and a navigation menu with links for Home, Meetings, Pension Legislation, MN Pension Plan Information, and Information & Documents. Social media icons for Twitter, email, and a printer are also present.

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LCPR News

Fire State Aid Work Group releases its report
Laws 2018, Chapter 211, Article 14, Section 27, required PERA to establish a work group to study the allocation of fire state aid and make recommendations to the LCPR. [Read the report...](#)

Welcome to the new LCPR staff Analyst, Chad Burkitt!
Chad Burkitt comes to the Pension Commission staff from MSRS, where he was the legislative liaison. Chad has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, and is a law student at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law. He was previously a Staff Sergeant in the Army, serving as the team leader for a Tactical Psychological Operations Team.

We are awaiting the appointment of 2019-2020 House and Senate members to the LCPR.

Minnesota News

Dayton signs pension bill aimed at long-term stability in state retirement system (Star Tribune)
By Jessie Van Berkel
Promise of increased stability has thousands of retirees, public employees breathing easier. [Read full article...](#)

National News

Minnesota CIO Mansco Perry III Wins Chief Investment Officer Lifetime Achievement Award
Crowds of investors and CIOs jumped to their feet to applaud Lifetime Achievement Award winner Mansco Perry III, executive director and CIO of the Minnesota State Board of Investment, with two standing ovations...during CIO's Innovation Awards gala at the glittery NYC Public Library. [Read full article...](#)

Combined Meetings

Calendar for January 2019:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Upcoming LCPR Meetings

[Calendar of LCPR meetings](#)

Quick Links

Of Interest...

- [Pension Basics](#)
- [Firefighters](#)

Contact Information

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