

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS AND BENEFITS

The meeting was called to order by Don Rezac at
Chairperson

7:35 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on March 5, 1991 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Elaine Wells (excused)
Representative Barbara Allen (excused)
Representative Walker Hendrix (excused)
Representative Bill Wisdom (excused)
Committee staff present: Representative Ed McKechnie (excused)

Richard Ryan - Legislative Research
Gordon Self - Revisor's Office
Juanita Blasdel - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Basil Covey - Kansas Retired Teachers Association
Chuck Stuart - United School Administrators
Ernie Mosher - League of Kansas Municipalities
Craig Grant - Kansas National Education Association

Others Attending: See attached list

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rezac at 7:35 a.m.

The Chairman called on Richard Ryan of staff to present HB 2103, 2094 and 2095 for hearings.

HB 2103 - concerning KPERS relating to postretirement benefit increase.

The first proponent on HB 2103 was Basil Covey of Kansas Retired Teachers Association. He testified from material previously handed out (Attachment #1). He was in favor of this bill especially for the teachers who taught in the early years for less money and possibly all their years were not credited account lost records.

Questions were then asked of Mr. Covey by the Committee members.

The next person to testify on HB 2103 was Chuck Stuart of United School Administrators. He testified from material previously handed out (Attachment #2). He felt that the funding for this bill should be borne by the state rather than KPERS, therefore he was against the bill as proposed.

Ernie Mosher of League of Kansas Municipalities then testified against HB 2103. He felt the real need was for an increase in participating service benefits which would tend to reduce the need for postretirement increases in the future. (Attachment #3).

Questions were then asked of Mr. Mosher by the Committee members.

Hearings were then concluded on HB 2103.

The Chairman announced that hearings on HB 2094 would proceed.

HB 2094 - concerning KPERS relating to lump-sum death benefit.

The first proponent of this bill was Basil Covey who testified from material previously handed out (Attachment #4). He was in favor of this bill due to increased costs for funerals.

The next proponent to testify was Chuck Stuart of United School Administrators who said they support this recommendation.

Hearings were then closed on HB 2094.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS & BENEFITS,
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 7:35 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on March 5, 1991.

Hearings were then opened on HB 2095.

HB 2095 - concerning KPERS relating to postretirement benefit adjustment.

Basil Covey of Kansas Retired Teachers Association was the first to testify on this bill. He supports this bill that increases the retirement benefit 3% for retired teachers and all members of KPERS. (Attachment #5)

Chuck Stuart of United School Administrators was the next proponent. He was in favor of the 3% increase in retirement benefits but not in favor of an immediate increase at retirement. He said the effective date should be moved back to July 1, 1990. He didn't think it should come immediately at retirement.

The Chairman then called on Craig Grant of Kansas National Education Association. He agrees that those who retired before 1990 should have this increase.

Marshall Crowther of KPERS then made a few comments on the three bills.

Hearings on HB 2095 were then closed.

Chairman Rezac entertained a motion to approve the minutes of previous meeting. Representative Amos made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27 meeting, seconded by Representative Watson, motion carried.

The Chairman reminded the committee that Wednesday's meeting would be in Room 521-S.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.



Kansas Retired Teachers Association

School is never out for Retired Teachers
1990 - 1991



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March 5, 1991

Members of the House Pensions and Investments Committee:

My name is Basil Covey and I represent the Kansas Retired Teachers Association.

We support HB 2103 that calls for an increase of \$15 to the monthly benefit for those retired teachers who retired prior to 1977.

These retired teachers are in late 70's, eighties and early nineties. These teachers served their school districts, never receiving much, nor asking for more. Most never heard of "reimbursed expense" as they furnished many school supplies and made visual aids for their students. In essence they subsidized the school district. Many have never received credit for all their service years. Some school board records were lost or destroyed.

When teachers came into KPERS in 1971 from the old KSRS their service records used .01 times their average low salaries.

Members of KPERS are School and Non-school. School members include cooks, bus drivers, secretaries, custodians and teachers.

To determine the benefit status of retired teachers a survey was undertaken. They were to report their 1989 benefit, year of retirement, and years of service without their name. The average service-year benefit is determined for comparison with other member groups in KPERS. KPERS furnished information for both School and Non-school groups.

These earlier public retirees are deserving of help to retain their dignity for serving in the teaching profession.

We ask that you consider HB 2103 for passage.

Sincerely,

Basil Covey
Basil Covey

Pensions, Investments & Benefits
Attachment #1
3-5-91

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This is a sample list of 35 retired teachers who retired before 1977 from the KRTA survey of 300 retired teachers.

<u>Monthly Benefit</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Average Service Year Benefit</u>
\$384.78	34	\$ 11.32
399.23	47	8.49
423.00	41	10.30
274.00	24	11.23
158.48	23	6.89
343.30	42	8.17
466.49	42	10.99
597.68	46	12.99
360.95	37	9.76
175.75	17	10.34
201.67	19	10.61
539.40	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	13.32
303.88	29	9.58
121.94	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.42
296.45	29	10.22
437.00	43	10.16
447.01	43	10.40
297.17	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.13
339.19	37	9.17
414.17	44	9.41
129.49	18	7.19
217.25	21	10.82
121.94	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.96
273.38	27	10.12
179.58	21	8.55
438.99	40	10.97
387.32	35	11.06
236.56	25	9.46
493.07	40	12.33
473.22	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	10.63
401.79	39	10.30
456.78	45	10.15
298.13	25	11.92
241.50	30	8.05
200.42	22	9.11
		(Aver. SYB \$ 9.87)

Basil Covey
Chairman, KRTA
Legislative Committee

February 25, 1991

This is a look at the average service-year benefit of member groups in KPERS. Judges not included.

Information from KPERS--

<u>School Retirees</u>	<u>Average Mo. benefit</u>	<u>Aver. Service</u>	<u>Aver. Ser.Yr.</u>
		<u>Years</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Before 1977	\$221.09	24	\$9.21
1977--1982	246.27	22	11.04
 <u>State Retirees</u>			
Before 1977	148.01	19	7.83
1977--1982	234.77	19	12.55
<u>State Elected</u>	1300.99	19	68.12
 <u>KRTA Survey</u>			
<u>300 Retired Teachers--</u>			
Before 1977	402.19	30	10.81
1977--1982	505.85	29	13.66
1983--1990	672.00	29	20.82

Basil Covey
Chairman, KRTA
Legislative Committee

February 25, 1991

Samples - om a KRTA survey of retired teachers with some making comments. The following information is presented in this order: City, average service-year benefit, years of service, age of the retiree, and year of retirement.

Fredonia--\$12.75, 15 years, 76 years, 1978 "I will move across the street from my daughter. She is a 4th generation teacher. Her great-grandmother founded and taught in a prairie school as a homesteader".

Russell--\$9.76, 37 years, legally blind & 90 years, 1961 "I am her niece writing this. Her pension has not kept up with the inflation rate".

Topeka--\$10.61, 19 years, 79 years, 1974 "Appreciate any help."

Minneola--\$9.98, 34 years, 72 years, 1982 "I retired when the participating service benefit was .0125."

Chanute--\$9.58, 29 years, 84 years, 1972 "Could you work for raising the \$9.58?"

Hutchinson--\$13.32, 40½ years, 86 years, 1970
9.05, 25 years, 77 years, 1979

Dodge City--\$7.70, 28½ years, 79 years, 1975 "I loved my teaching and I resent getting old."

Madison--\$9.86, 20 years, 78 years, 1977

Hays--\$10.22, 29 years, 84 years, 1972

Salina--\$9.05, 42 years, 76 years, 1980
7.19, 17 years, 84 years, 1972

Arkansas City--\$9.17, 26 years, 77 years, 1976 "We need help for we taught when pay was low."

Belleville--\$13.44, 43 years, 72 years, 1979

Wichita--\$11.28, 25 years, 85 years, 1971 "Iv'e never known why KRSR hasn't given me the 26 years credit."
\$9.17, 37 years, 83 years, 1973 "I taught when pay was low."

Lawrence--\$9.74, 42 years, 85 years, 1968
9.41, 44 years, 89 years, 1966 "I'm in a retirement home need help."

KC, Mo.--\$12.13, 24½ years, 79 years, 1972 "Hope we can get legislators to take some action."
10.16, 43 years, 80 years, 1976 "I hope a fair adjustment can be made."

Medicine Lodge--\$8.58, 26 years, 85 years, 1971 "Help for us is long overdue."

McPherson--\$8.61, 13½ years, 99 years, 1942

Kansas City--\$8.49, 47 years, 87 years, 1969
11.23, 24 years, 77 years, 1979

Howard--\$6.89, 23 years, 82 years, 1974 "Percentage increases doesn't seem fair when I taught in days of low pay."

Aurora, Mo.--\$12.40, 25 years, 78 years, 1978

Garden City--\$5.42, 22½ years, 80 years, 1976 "The old teachers out here are trying to get \$50 a month more money. They are 80 years old."
8.50, 21 years, 101 years, 1976

Larned--\$10.99, 42 years, 77 years, 1969
8.17, 19 years, 84 years, 1972

Fort Scott--\$6.62, 40 years, 84 years, 1972 "It surely doesn't seem fair when I taught in the days of low pay."

Chanute--\$3.05, 11 years, 80 years, 1976 "I would appreciate dollars per year service increases, percentage increases do not help me very much."
Nickerson--\$11.08, 45 years, 93 years, 1963 "I would appreciate any help given."
Syracuse--\$10.71, 42 years, 71 years, 1980
Greensburg--\$8.69, 26 years, 81 years, 1975
Wichita--\$9.66, 23 years, 81 years, 1975
Hoisington--\$13.33, 30 years, 84 years, 1975 "I feel I have been unfairly treated by some action taken in changes."
Fort Scott--\$10.43, 39 years, 87 years, 1969
Syracuse--\$12.96, 28 years, 85 years, 1977
Deerfield--\$5.94, 27 years, 81 years, 1965
Marysville--\$11.30, 39½ years, 88 years, 1968 "We older retired teachers are in need of increased pensions."
Effingham--\$9.31, 35 years, 83 years, 1973 "I was upset with legislature for what they did for themselves."
Coffeyville--\$10.40, 47 years, 79 years, 1977
Copeland--\$7.03, 25 years, 76 years, 1972
Ashland--\$10.62, 30 years, 72 years, 1978
Kinsley--\$8.98, 34 years, 78 years, 1976
Ford--\$9.69, 34 years, 80 years, 1976
Great Bend--\$11.06, 36 years, 79 years, 1977
Frankfort--\$10.37, 23½ years, 81 years, 1975
Ada--\$11.48, 30 years, 83 years, 1973
Moundridge--\$10.91, 17 years, 90 years, 1942
Leavenworth--\$9.62, 43 years, 83 years, 1973

These figures and quotations were taken from among 300 reports from retired teachers.

Basil Covey
Chairman, KRTA
Legislative Committee

February 18, 1991



HB 2103 - HB 2904 - HB 2905

March 5, 1991

Testimony presented before the House Committee on
Pensions, Investments and Benefits
by Charles L. "Chuck" Stuart, Legislative Liaison
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, United School Administrators of Kansas appreciates the opportunity to comment on these three bills today. For the sake of brevity, I am taking the liberty of putting our testimony on all three bills in one written testimony.

HB 2103 increases benefits by \$15 per month for those who retired prior to July 1, 1977. Although we realize benefits for these retirees is low, we do not feel these special benefits should come from the KPERS fund. Such funding should be borne by the state. We therefore do not favor **HB 2103** as proposed.

We support ²⁰⁹⁴**HB 2904** which raises the death benefit from \$2,500 to \$3,000. This should cover part of the inflation associated with burial costs which have arisen since the \$2,500 benefit was established.

We believe **HB 2095**, which calls for a 3% increase in retirement benefits for those who retired prior to July 1, 1991, is more nearly in keeping with the inflated cost of living. We would recommend that the effective retirement date for this benefit be set back to July 1, 1990. This would be more in line with the practice of not improving retiree benefits until at least one year after retirement. With this proposed change, we would enthusiastically support **HB 2095**.

hb2103,2904,2905/bam

Pensions, Investments & Benefits
Attachment #2

3-5-91



**League
of Kansas
Municipalities**

**Municipal
Legislative
Testimony**

PUBLISHERS OF KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL 112 W. 7TH TOPEKA, KS 66603 (913) 354-9565 FAX (913) 354-4186

TO: House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits
FROM: E. A. Mosher, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities
RE: HB 2103, HB 2094 and HB 2095--KPERS Bills
DATE: March 4, 1991

By action of the Governing Body of the League, I somewhat reluctantly appear in opposition to HB 2103 and HB 2095, which would provide for KPERS post-retirement benefit increases. We have taken the position of "no position" on HB 2094, to increase the amount of the lump-sum death benefit under KPERS and KP&F.

Our position in opposition to post-retirement benefit increases is simply to focus attention on what we think the real need is, and that is an increase in participating service benefits, tending to reduce the need for post-retirement increases in the future. We have some problems with the fairness and equity of KPERS, particularly as to local government employees, whereby the employee contribution vastly exceed the employer contribution for participating service. As you know, in 1992, local employees will contribute 4% of their salary, while the employer contribution for participating service will be .115% of payroll.

Our opposition in principle should not be construed that we think retirants do not need an increase. Perhaps they do--we don't know! We do know that significant increases have been granted in the past, as shown on the attached report. We also know--or think we know--that existing employees are not now getting a fair deal. Until this basic issue of fairness is resolved, we think it appropriate to stop further increases to present retirants.

Pensions, Investments & Benefits
Attachment #3
3-5-91

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POST RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS

- KPERS - 1972 - 5% across the board. (Permanent)
- 1973 - Graduated percentage increase based on year of retirement ranging from 32% to 2%. (Permanent)
- 1976 - 5% of annual benefit; maximum \$200, minimum \$20. (13th Check)
- 1977 - 5% of annual benefit; maximum \$200, minimum \$20. (13th Check)
- 1978 - Graduated percentage increase based on year of retirement ranging from 7.34% to 1.1%. (Permanent)
- 1980 - Retirement Dividend Payment not to exceed 8.33% of annual benefit (13th Check). (Permanent for all who retire through July 1, 1987)
- 1982 - 10% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who were entitled to benefits as of 6-30-81. (Permanent)
- 1984 - 10% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who were entitled to benefits as of 6-30-81. (Permanent)
- 1985 - 5% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who were entitled to benefits as of 6-30-84. (Permanent)
- 1986 - 3% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who retired prior to 1-1-85. (Permanent)
- 1987 - 2% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who retired before 1-1-86. (Permanent)
- 1988 - 3% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who retired before 1-1-87. (Permanent)
- 1989 - 4% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who retired before 7-1-88. (Permanent)
- 1990 - 4% increase in monthly benefits for retirants who retired before 7-1-89. (Permanent)

KP&F - 1972 - Same as KPERS.
 1973 - Same as KPERS except 50% to those who retired before 1962.
 1976 - Same as KPERS.
 1977 - Same as KPERS.
 1978 - Same as KPERS.
 1980 - Same as KPERS.
 1982 - Same as KPERS.
 1984 - Same as KPERS.
 1985 - Same as KPERS.
 1986 - Same as KPERS.
 1987 - Same as KPERS.
 1988 - Same as KPERS.
 1989 - Same as KPERS.
 1990 - Same as KPERS.

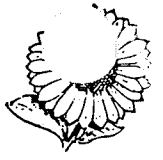
JUDGES - 1972 - Same as KPERS.
 1973 - None.
 1974 - Integration with social security removed.
 1976 - Same as KPERS.
 1977 - Same as KPERS.
 1978 - Same as KPERS.
 1980 - Same as KPERS.
 1982 - Same as KPERS.
 1984 - Same as KPERS.
 1985 - Same as KPERS.
 1986 - Same as KPERS.
 1987 - Same as KPERS.
 1988 - Same as KPERS.
 1989 - Same as KPERS.
 1990 - Same as KPERS.



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Phone 316-331-7459

March 5, 1991

Members of the House Pensions and Investments Committee:

My name is Basil Covey and I represent the Kansas Retired Teachers Association.

We have supported bills similar to HB 2094 in the past and do support HB 2094.

We appreciate that the death benefit has been increased in past years and should be increased for retired teachers and other KPERs members.

Death is a part of life, and as we live life, we have to talk about it and plan for financial arrangements for it.

General information is available for the cost of dying. Caskets range from \$300 to \$4000. Some cemeteries require an outer burial container which costs between \$350 and \$2000. Immediate burials--within 24 hours--range from \$1000 to \$1500. Other miscellaneous costs may run as high as \$500 to \$800.

Although a retiree at the time of death will not be able to express appreciation for passage of HB 2094, the family certainly will.

We request that you give consideration for passage of HB 2094.

Sincerely,

Basil Covey
Basil Covey

APPOINTIVE OFFICE

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Pensions, Investments & Benefits
Attachment #4

3-5-91



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March 5, 1991

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My name is Basil Covey and I represent the Kansas Retired Teachers Association.

We support HB 2095 that increases the retirement benefit 3% for retired teachers and all members of KPERs.

We appreciate enhancements passed by this Committee in the past, but recognize that legislation for increases is an ongoing process.

The federal government established legislation for Social Security recipients to receive percentage increases annually. The states must assume responsibility for its retirants. Adjustments in the cost of living must be made to retain purchasing power and not diminish the standard of living of retirants.

The 1988 AARP bulletin giving retirement programs for teachers in the 50 states is as follows: 27 states, or 54%, grant automatic COLA increases; 21 states, or 42%, have ad hoc increases, and two states, or 4%, grant infrequent increases.

It is standard procedure to consider economic conditions in relation to inflation in determining the COLA for each particular year. Reports from economists state the rate of inflation ranges between 7 or 8%.

We urge your Committee to give consideration for passage of HB 2095.

Sincerely,
Basil Covey
Basil Covey

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Samples from a KRTA survey of retired teachers with some making comments. The following information is presented in this order: City, average service-year benefit, years of service, age of the retiree, and year of retirement.

Fredonia--\$12.75, 15 years, 76 years, 1978 "I will move across the street from my daughter. She is a 4th generation teacher. Her great-grandmother founded and taught in a prairie school as a homesteader".

Russell--\$9.76, 37 years, legally blind & 90 years, 1961 "I am her niece writing this. Her pension has not kept up with the inflation rate".

Topeka--\$10.61, 19 years, 79 years, 1974 "Appreciate any help."

Minneola--\$9.98, 34 years, 72 years, 1982 "I retired when the participating service benefit was .0125."

Chanute--\$9.58, 29 years, 84 years, 1972 "Could you work for raising the \$9.58?"

Hutchinson--\$13.32, 40½ years, 86 years, 1970
9.05, 25 years, 77 years, 1979

Dodge City--\$7.70, 28½ years, 79 years, 1975 "I loved my teaching and I resent getting old."

Madison--\$9.86, 20 years, 78 years, 1977

Hays--\$10.22, 29 years, 84 years, 1972

Salina--\$9.05, 42 years, 76 years, 1980
7.19, 17 years, 84 years, 1972

Arkansas City--\$9.17, 26 years, 77 years, 1976 "We need help for we taught when pay was low."

Belleville--\$13.44, 43 years, 72 years, 1979

Wichita--\$11.28, 25 years, 85 years, 1971 "I've never known why KRSR hasn't given me the 26 years credit."
\$9.17, 37 years, 83 years, 1973 "I taught when pay was low."

Lawrence--\$9.74, 42 years, 85 years, 1968
9.41, 44 years, 89 years, 1966 "I'm in a retirement home need help."

KC, Mo.--\$12.13, 24½ years, 79 years, 1972 "Hope we can get legislators to take some action."
10.16, 43 years, 80 years, 1976 "I hope a fair adjustment can be made."

Medicine Lodge--\$8.58, 26 years, 85 years, 1971 "Help for us is long overdue."

McPherson--\$8.61, 13½ years, 99 years, 1942

Kansas City--\$8.49, 47 years, 87 years, 1969
11.23, 24 years, 77 years, 1979

Howard--\$6.89, 23 years, 82 years, 1974 "Percentage increases doesn't seem fair when I taught in days of low pay."

Aurora, Mo.--\$12.40, 25 years, 78 years, 1978

Garden City--\$5.42, 22½ years, 80 years, 1976 "The old teachers out here are trying to get \$50 a month more money. They are 80 years old."
8.50, 21 years, 101 years, 1976

Larned--\$10.99, 42 years, 77 years, 1969
8.17, 19 years, 84 years, 1972

Fort Scott--\$6.62, 40 years, 84 years, 1972 "It surely doesn't seem fair when I taught in the days of low pay."

Chanute--\$3.05, 11 years, 80 years, 1976 "I would appreciate dollars per year service increases, percentage increases do not help me very much."
Nickerson--\$11.08, 45 years, 93 years, 1963 "I would appreciate any help given."
Syracuse--\$10.71, 42 years, 71 years, 1980
Greensburg--\$8.69, 26 years, 81 years, 1975
Wichita--\$9.66, 23 years, 81 years, 1975
Hoisington--\$13.33, 30 years, 84 years, 1975 "I feel I have been unfairly treated by some action taken in changes."
Fort Scott--\$10.43, 39 years, 87 years, 1969
Syracuse--\$12.96, 28 years, 85 years, 1977
Deerfield--\$5.94, 27 years, 81 years, 1965
Marysville--\$11.30, 39½ years, 88 years, 1968 "We older retired teachers are in need of increased pensions."
Effingham--\$9.31, 35 years, 83 years, 1973 "I was upset with legislature for what they did for themselves."
Coffeyville--\$10.40, 47 years, 79 years, 1977
Copeland--\$7.03, 25 years, 76 years, 1972
Ashland--\$10.62, 30 years, 72 years, 1978
Kinsley--\$8.98, 34 years, 78 years, 1976
Ford--\$9.69, 34 years, 80 years, 1976
Great Bend--\$11.06, 36 years, 79 years, 1977
Frankfort--\$10.37, 23½ years, 81 years, 1975
Ada--\$11.48, 30 years, 83 years, 1973
Moundridge--\$10.91, 17 years, 90 years, 1942
Leavenworth--\$9.62, 43 years, 83 years, 1973

These figures and quotations were taken from among 300 reports from retired teachers.

Basil Covey
Chairman, KRTA
Legislative Committee

February 18, 1991

This is a look at the average service-year benefit of member groups in KPERS. Judges not included.

Information from KPERS--

<u>School Retirees</u>	<u>Average Mo. benefit</u>	<u>Aver. Service</u>	<u>Aver. Ser.Yr.</u>
		<u>Years</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Before 1977	\$221.09	24	\$9.21
1977--1982	246.27	22	11.04
 <u>State Retirees</u>			
Before 1977	148.01	19	7.83
1977--1982	234.77	19	12.55
<u>State Elected</u>	1300.99	19	68.12
 <u>KRTA Survey</u>			
<u>300 Retired Teachers--</u>			
Before 1977	402.19	30	10.81
1977--1982	505.85	29	13.66
1983--1990	672.00	29	20.82

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Legislative Committee

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