

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 1, 2010, in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

None

Others appearing before the Committee:

Representative Tom Hawk, 67th District
Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS)

Chair Schwartz opened the floor to bill introductions. Representative Tom Hawk, 67th District, requested the Committee consider a bill introduction on KPERS and potential furloughs so that if an employee is eligible for retirement being furloughed it would not count against them for receiving benefits. It was moved by Representative Long, seconded by Representative Lane that the Committee introduce this bill. The motion carried.

Chair Schwartz recognized Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department, who distributed copies of a memorandum in regard to statutorily authorized early and phased retirement plans. (Attachment #1) This memorandum provides background information on current state law which authorizes early and phased retirement plans for some public employees; identifies other states which enacted new early and phased retirement plans in 2009, and gives details about those recently enacted plans in other states. He went on to give background information on early retirement incentives that the Kansas Legislature has authorized school district boards of education to establish and on phased retirement plans that the Kansas Legislature has authorized the Board of Regents to develop and implement for unclassified employees of state educational institutions. Mr. Efird then reviewed information as to how other states have adopted early retirement incentives or phased retirement plans to be used as budget management tools in reducing the state workforce.

Questions followed with lengthy discussion.

Chair Schwartz recognized Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, for his comments on this issue. Director Deck informed the Committee of the current status of KPERS retirement programs. He emphasized the need to be able to hold positions open after a retirement as there could be a possibility of losing key people.

Questions and answers followed.

Chair Schwartz then appointed a subcommittee to work out the details to introduce a bill taking into consideration the discussions of this morning. The subcommittee will consist of Representative Schultz, Chair, and Representatives Proehl, Flaharty, Lane and Olson.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be February 8, 2010.

Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair

