

Pension lobbying toolkit

2022 Minnesota Legislature

Potential talking points

- Minnesota's school staffing shortage was already a growing problem before COVID-19 hit, but now it's at crisis levels. We need competitive compensation packages that attract the best educators to the profession and keep them in our schools.
- The state Legislature can make teaching more attractive by enhancing retirement benefits to recognize and reward teachers' hard work on behalf of students.
- Pension plans were historically designed as a tool for employers to attract skilled workers and get them to stay with that same employer until they retire. They have been particularly important for public employers like school districts since they can't pay educated, skilled workers as high of a salary as private companies.
- There are three bills the Minnesota Legislature could consider that would improve retirement packages and elevate teaching as a profession.
 - [HF3771](#): Ensures a secure retirement by increasing the cost-of-living adjustment for retirees in all pension plans to 2.5 percent a year starting on Jan. 1, 2023.
 - [HF3773/SF3558](#): Provides 24 months of service credit for every 12 months of service for public school employees for 2020, 2021 and 2022. This recognizes how educators went above and beyond during the pandemic and makes it more affordable for school employees to retire earlier if they choose.
 - [HF3942/SF3649](#): Brings back Rule of 90. This allows an educator to retire when the employee's age plus number of years of eligible service amount to 90, without a reduction in retirement benefits.
- Minnesota students deserve stability in their schools, but there are no signs school staffing shortages will end anytime soon. Enhanced pension benefits that honor the work of teachers is one way to recruit and retain the best educators for our students.

How to put pressure on the Legislature


Talk to your own state legislators

- Email or call your state senator and representative and let them know you want to see enhanced pension benefits offered to attract educators to the profession and keep them on the job.
 - Use our [template to email your legislators](#). Feel free to edit, use your own words and experience, and share with your colleagues as well!
 - Find your legislators at <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts>. Use the talking points above or use your own. Make sure to share your story about why this is not just important for educators in your area but students as well. This is a recruitment and retention issue, and children need stability in their schools.
- Set up a meeting with your legislators and some of your colleagues to discuss why Minnesota should reexamine teacher pensions.
 - Find your legislators at <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts>.

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THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
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- *Contact their legislative assistants (information included on the legislator's contact page) and ask them to set up a meeting with the legislator back in your home district.*
- *Invite several colleagues to the meeting. Plan ahead of time about speaker roles, questions you would like to ask, etc. This is your time with your legislator. Make sure they don't get off topic and that you get the answers you want.*
- *Share this [pension issue brief overview](#) with them for background and ask them if they are willing to sign on to any of the three bills that would enhance pension benefits.*
- *Give them a follow-up call to check in.*

Contact pension commission members

The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement is a joint commission with members from both the Minnesota House and Senate. Its primary purpose is to make recommendations on pension-related legislation.

You can find contact information for pension commission members at <https://www.lcpr.mn.gov/members>.

Attend our pension lobby day

Education Minnesota has a lobby day dedicated to pension issues on April 19. It is open to all active members.

Staff will share research on pensions and retirements and educators like you from across the state can share your experiences and needs with legislators in attendance.

PENSION LOBBY DAY

Tuesday, April 19

5-6:30 p.m.

[Register online](#)