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Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Greetings!

Thank you for signing up to stay informed and active in our efforts to defend and improve educators' ability to retire with financial security. We are currently in the first phase of our new [Pension Advocacy Plan](#) and need to continue working to elect officials who believe in strong pensions.

In order to make sure you and other members know what they are helping to advocate for, here is an overview of how we got here:

Overview of the 2022 session

Education Minnesota members and staff have consistently advocated for and defended strong pensions for our members. Those pensions are also consistently a target for some legislators and others who want to underfund and even eliminate the defined benefit systems that are in place. Over the past few years, member energy has grown around addressing inadequate state funding and the lack of a benefit that is strong enough for our educators. This led to a great deal of activity in the 2022 legislative cycle, including:

- Education Minnesota staff working directly with legislators to create bills to address the needs of some educators and retirees. That work resulted in these three bills being introduced in 2022. Unfortunately, none of them moved into law.
 - [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 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.
- The creation of a member Pension Task Force to research and create solutions for our pension systems - [Summary of the 2022 PTF](#).
- An [Action Alert](#) that resulted in over 3,600 members contacting their elected officials.
- Our Pension Lobby Day with 60 Education Minnesota members speaking directedly with legislators about their pension needs.

- Education Minnesota staff meetings with the TRA Board, TRA staff, PERA staff, SPTRFA staff and legislators from 2021 through the end of the 2022 legislative session advocating for pension improvements.
- Highlighting the need for a larger pension campaign for 2022-23.

In order to be successful, we need to engage all our members and let them know that they're not alone in wanting to fight for their pensions. We must let them know about the work that was done last session and that we need to multiply those numbers in order to make positive change in 2023!

Resources:

[TRA document on pension basics](#)

[Education Minnesota pensions webpage](#)

As we share information throughout this campaign, we will add to the resources to our website and share links for you to use.

If you have any questions, please email Negotiations Specialist [Adam Janiak](#).

