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Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 17

If you've missed any past updates, they're [available on our website](#).

With bills now introduced at the Legislature, we must continue to engage more and more members so that our collective power is at its strongest. As bills are introduced, we need to make sure that there is clear understanding of their positive and negative aspects of all bills. And, most importantly, we need to take action through individual contacts with elected officials, group lobby days and more.

NEW call to action on our pension bills

Contact your legislators and share that they should support benefit improvements and a strong funding investment. There are many options for action. After you take action, organize other members to do the same.

- [Use our new action alert](#) to contact your legislators. When you enter your address, our system generates a customizable email that will be sent to your representative, senator and the governor.
- Create a personal email to your legislators. Ask them to co-author the pension bills if they haven't, and to support benefit improvements.
- [Contact LCPR members](#) and let them know pension improvements are essential to recruit and retain educators. They have multiple options in front of them and should support improvements and a strong investment from the state of Minnesota.

LCPR testimony

On Monday, Feb. 27, Education Minnesota members testified during the LCPR meeting to support benefit improvements for educator pensions.

Ryan Fiereck - St. Francis, Julie Seiler - Spring Lake Park, Will Bauman - Minnesota State College Faculty, Jeff Kocur - Hopkins, Dr. Liz Keeling - Anoka Hennepin and Jim McComas-Bussa - Minneapolis all spoke about the need for improvements and an investment by the state of Minnesota into educator pensions. They were fantastic and you can view their testimony in the [LCPR meeting video archives](#).

In addition, members Kelly Savage - Pillager, Kim McDonald and Paul Peterson - International Falls, and Jim Reed - Brainerd shared [written](#)

[testimony.](#)

Bill updates

Summary of our current pension bills:

The House file has been introduced! [HF2222](#) is authored by strong pensions advocate and LCPR member Rep. Dan Wolgamott. Other House members signing on to the bill are Reps. Kaela Berg (also on LCPR), Greg Davids, Rick Hansen, Leon Lillie and Dean Urdahl.

Sen. Erin Murphy has signed on as another author of the Senate version of our pension bill.

Keep encouraging your legislators to sign on as co-authors.

[Pension bill summary](#)

Pension Advocacy Plan presentation resources

- An asynchronous version of the Pension Advocacy Plan presentation is now available [on MEA Online](#).
- [Building meeting materials](#) to organize in your local.

Learn more about the six TRA board candidates

[Voter guide](#) – Education Minnesota invited all six candidates to fill out a written questionnaire, which we then used a selection of questions and answers for [a voter guide](#). Learn more about the candidates’ stances on pension issues and why they are running.

[Virtual candidate Q&A session](#) – Education Minnesota will host a Q&A session on Zoom with the six TRA board candidates Feb. 28 from 6-7:30 p.m. This event is open to all Education Minnesota members and you can register [here](#). The meeting will also be recorded and shared with members afterward. Members can submit questions for the candidates when they register.

Important Events/Dates:

- Pensions Issue Lobby Day – April 20 ([Register](#))
- PERA board meetings – [Dates](#)
- TRA board meetings - [Dates](#)
- SPTRFA board meetings – [Dates](#)
- LCPR meetings - [Dates](#)

Resources:

Organizing and Action	General Information
Pension bill action alert	Education Minnesota pensions webpage
Legislative contact template	EdMN Capitol Connection e-newsletter
Tips for contacting your legislators	TRA document on pension basics

Find your legislators	PERA member resources
EdMN Lobby Days info	Public pension terminology
LCPR members	

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

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today or use the QR code below!](#)

