



August 12, 2013

The Honorable Paul Thissen, Speaker
MN House of Representatives
Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy, Chair
State Office Building
100 REV DR MARTIN KING JR BLVD
ST PAUL MN 55155-1298

Dear Speaker Thissen:

We are responding to the request of the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy (LCPFP) regarding the Voluntary Statewide Lump-Sum Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Plan Advisory Board (MN Statutes, Section 353G.03). As outlined in your request of August 2, we provide the following:

The mission of the group	The mission (purpose) of this advisory group is to provide advice to the PERA Board of Trustees regarding the needs of the volunteer firefighter community and to ensure that the benefits offered through the statewide plan are meeting the needs of that community for those who choose to participate; the group also recommends legislative and administrative changes deemed necessary to accommodate volunteer firefighters who are not members of the plan.		
Membership List	City Representative	Marty Scheerer	1/1/12 – 12/31/14
	City Representative	Calvin Larson	1/1/13 – 12/31/15
	Township Representative	Eric Hedtke	1/1/11 – 12/31/13
	MN State Fire Dept. Assn.	Nyle Zikmund	1/1/12 – 12/31/14
	MN State Fire Dept. Assn.	John King	1/1/13 – 12/21/15
	MN State Fire Chiefs' Assn.	Jeff Sanborn	1/1/11 – 12/31/13
	State Auditor Designee	Rose Hennessy Allen	Indefinitely
	Members serve for reimbursement of expenses only.		
Budget of the group	The budget is negligible; less than \$500 in reimbursements paid in the years the board has met; staff administrative costs are part of the overall PERA administrative budget.		
Most recent three meeting dates	October 28, 2009; October 28, 2010; December 7, 2012; none scheduled yet for 2013		
List of any reports or recommendations issued to the	2010 Laws of MN, Chapter 359, Article 6: cleaned up cross-references to Section 69; clarified how to determine the value of defined contribution plan accounts converting to the statewide lump sum benefit value;		

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Legislature	<p>removed language in original creation of the chapter that was confusing; defined cash flow funding requirements; established disability benefit coverage as an authorized account disbursement; added clarifying language on how to determine value of defined contribution plan if paid before new statewide benefits become payable; added benefit levels in smaller increments between steps; authorized the statewide plan to offer disability benefit coverage through a group insurance policy, if the advisory board deemed it appropriate.</p> <p>2012 Laws of MN, Chapter 286, Article 12, Section 8: added language to permit a sponsor of the volunteer firefighter group participating in the statewide plan to make supplemental contributions to the group's account.</p> <p>2013 Laws of MN, Chapter 111, Article 6, Section 3: lengthens from 90 to 120 days the time a local sponsoring entity has to decide whether to add its group to the statewide volunteer firefighter lump sum retirement plan after receiving final cost analysis of doing so.</p>
Link to the web site	<p>www.mnpera.org; part of PERA's overall web site under the "Employer" tab listed as 'Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Plan'</p>

If you have any questions about the work of this Advisory Board or about PERA's administration of the statewide Volunteer Firefighters: Lump-Sum Retirement Plan authorized under Chapter 353G, do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I can be reached at (651) 296-8358, or by e-mail at mary.most.vanek@mnpera.org.

Sincerely,


Mary Most Vanek
Executive Director