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## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 31, 2024  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Judy Estenson, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Members present:** Senators Judy Estenson, Brad Bekkedahl, Sean Cleary, Kyle Davison, Larry Luick, Kristin Roers\*; Representatives Josh Boschee, Clayton Fegley, Patrick Hatlestad, Corey Mock\*

**Members absent:** Representatives Austen Schauer, Jorin Johnson, Jim Kasper

**Others present:** Representative Karen Karls, Bismarck  
Dana Woolfrey and Bonnie Wurst, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company Holdings  
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

*\*Attended remotely*

**It was moved by Senator Davison, seconded by Senator Luick, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the September 12, 2024, meeting be approved as distributed.**

### ACTUARIAL VALUATION Public Employees Retirement System

Ms. Bonnie Wurst, Senior Consultant, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company Holdings, provided an overview ([Appendix B](#)) of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) valuation process and the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuations of the PERS fund, Highway Patrol Troopers' retirement system fund, public safety funds, Job Service North Dakota retirement system fund, and Retiree Health Insurance Credit Program fund.

### Teachers' Fund for Retirement

Ms. Dana Woolfrey, Senior Consultant, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company Holdings, provided an overview ([Appendix C](#)) of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement valuation process and the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement.

### BILL DRAFT JURISDICTION

The committee considered the following bill drafts to determine whether the bill drafts affect, actuarially or otherwise, the retirement programs or health and retiree health plans of state employees or employees of any political subdivision pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-02.4:

- Bill Draft No. 439 [[25.0439.01000](#)], relating to PERS public safety retirement plan benefits for peace officers, firefighters, and correctional officers employed by a political subdivision; and
- Bill Draft No. 454 [[25.0454.01000](#)], relating to PERS public safety retirement plan benefits for peace officers employed by the state.

**It was moved by Senator Davison, seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee take jurisdiction over Bill Draft No. 439 [[25.0439.01000](#)].** Senators Estenson, Bekkedahl, Cleary, Davison, Luick, and Roers and Representatives Boschee, Fegley, Hatlestad, and Mock voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

**It was moved by Senator Davison, seconded by Representative Boschee, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee take jurisdiction over Bill Draft No. 454 [[25.0454.01000](#)].** Senators Estenson, Bekkedahl, Cleary, Davison, Luick, and Roers and Representatives Boschee, Fegley, Hatlestad, and Mock voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

**BILL DRAFT ACTUARIAL REPORT**

The committee received technical comments, actuarial information, and comments by interested persons relating to Bill Draft No. 142 [25.0142.02000], over which the committee took jurisdiction, which affects, actuarially or otherwise, the retirement programs and health and retiree health plans of state employees or employees of any political subdivision pursuant to Section 54-35-02.4. Bill Draft No. 142 provides PERS health benefits coverage for state employees and retirees must be compliant with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Ms. Rebecca Fricke, Executive Director, Public Employees Retirement System, provided technical comments (Appendices [D](#) and [E](#)) and presented the actuarial report ([Appendix F](#)) relating to Bill Draft No. 142.

Senator Davison provided comments regarding the bill draft. He noted the bill aligns with the goals of the North Dakota Legislative Health Care Task Force to encourage a healthier population by providing full coverage for preventative screenings and well-child visits.

**It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Senator Davison, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee give a favorable recommendation on Bill Draft No. 142 [25.0142.02000].** Senators Estenson, Bekkedahl, Cleary, Davison, Luick, and Roers and Representatives Boschee, Fegley, Hatlestad, and Mock voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

**It was moved by Senator Davison, seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, and carried on a voice vote that the Chairman and Legislative Council staff be requested to prepare a report and to present the report to the Legislative Management.**

No further business appearing, Acting Chairman Estenson adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

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Beth Dittus  
Counsel

ATTACH:6