

**54-35-02.3. Employee benefits programs committee - Appointment - Selection of chairman.**

The legislative management, during each biennium, shall appoint an employee benefits programs committee in the same manner as the legislative management appoints other interim committees. The legislative management shall appoint seven members of the house of representatives and six members of the senate to the committee. The legislative management shall designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to the statutes and procedure governing the operation of other legislative management interim committees.

**54-35-02.4. Employee benefits programs committee - Powers and duties.**

1. The employee benefits programs committee shall consider and report on those legislative measures and proposals over which it takes jurisdiction and which affect, actuarially or otherwise, the retirement programs of state employees or employees of any political subdivision, and health and retiree health plans of state employees or employees of any political subdivision. The committee shall make a thorough review of any measure or proposal which it takes under its jurisdiction, including an actuarial review. The committee shall take jurisdiction over any measure or proposal that authorizes an automatic increase or other change in benefits beyond the ensuing biennium which would not require legislative approval. The committee must include in the report of the committee a statement that the proposal would allow future changes without legislative involvement. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, along with any necessary legislation, to the legislative management and to the legislative assembly.
2. To carry out its responsibilities, the committee, or its designee, may:
  - a. Enter contracts, including retainer agreements, with an actuary or actuarial firm for expert assistance and consultation. Each retirement, insurance, or retiree insurance program shall pay, from its retirement, insurance, or retiree health benefits fund, as appropriate, and without the need for a prior appropriation, the cost of any actuarial report required by the committee which relates to that program.
  - b. Call on personnel from state agencies or political subdivisions to furnish such information and render such assistance as the committee may from time to time request.
  - c. Establish rules for its operation, including the submission and review of proposals and the establishing of standards for actuarial review.
3. The committee may solicit draft measures and proposals from interested persons during the interim between legislative sessions, and may also study measures and proposals referred to it by the legislative assembly or the legislative management.
4. A copy of the committee's report concerning any legislative measure shall, if that measure is introduced for consideration by a legislative assembly, be appended to the copy of that measure which is referred to a standing committee.
5. A legislative measure affecting a public employees retirement program, public employees health insurance program, or public employee retiree health insurance program may not be introduced in either house unless it is accompanied by a report from the committee. A majority of the members of the committee, acting through the chairman, has sole authority to determine whether any legislative measure affects a program.
6. Any amendment made during a legislative session to a legislative measure affecting a public employees retirement program, public employees health insurance program, or public employee retiree health insurance program may not be considered by a

standing committee unless it is accompanied by a report from the employee benefits programs committee.  
Any legislation enacted in contravention of this section is invalid and of no force and effect, and any benefits provided under such legislation must be reduced to the level current prior to enactment.

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