

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA FRICKE

House Bill 1371 – Pre-Medicare Plan Coverage for Retired Peace Officers

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Rebecca Fricke and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System, or NDPERS. I appreciate the committee taking the time to analyze House Bill 1371, which was amended in the House to be a “shall consider” study regarding providing pre-Medicare NDPERS health insurance coverage to eligible retired peace officers.

I am here today on behalf of the NDPERS Board to provide information in a neutral capacity so the policy makers are able to make an informed decision regarding the bill.

The bill as introduced would have required NDPERS to re-open our pre-Medicare retiree health insurance plan to retired peace officers with 20 years of employment as a peace officer if they are not yet eligible for Medicare. The bill also required that the retiree not be charged any portion of premium towards the coverage. My testimony uploaded for the House Government and Veteran’s Affairs Committee’s consideration discussed potential costs and also information on why the pre-Medicare retiree plan was closed by legislators to NDPERS retirees, including peace officers, effective July 1, 2015. This was due to reporting requirements of unfunded liabilities that had an impact on the State’s financial statements.

Given this bill has been amended to be a “shall consider” study, NDPERS will certainly participate in the study should legislative management opt to have the study occur during the interim.

Madame Chair, I welcome any questions that the committee may have.