

**Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund
MINUTES**

**Government Affairs & Policy Committee
140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio
August 27, 2019**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

In Attendance:

Committee Members/Trustees:

Britt, Corvi, M. Miller, Montgomery, Wainscott and Desmond

Staff:

Foley, Gallagher, Graham, Hall, Harville, Holodnak, McElroy, S. Miller, O'Brien, Rankin, Sparks

Others Present:

Mary Therese Bridge, Assistant Attorney, Adam Hewit and Robert Blazer, Legislative Consultants

Excuse Trustee:

Mr. Desmond moved and Mr. Corvi seconded a motion that to excuse Mr. Heller from today's Governmental Affairs and Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: M. Miller and Desmond

Nays: None

AGENDA ITEM 1:

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Desmond moved and Mr. Corvi seconded a motion that the committee approves the June 18, 2019 Government Affairs and Policy Committee minutes. The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: M. Miller and Desmond

Nays: None

AGENDA ITEM 2:

1) Fall 2019 Legislative Update

Mr. Adam Hewit updated the committee on the following state legislative items:

- **Disability Amendments:** OP&F has been seeking legislation to permit the outsourcing of independent medical examinations of members who are applying for disability benefits. This is due to the increasing difficulty in finding independent physicians to perform these examinations, which has been caused by corporatization of medical care. Many physicians are barred by the rules of their practice groups and/or hospitals from contracting with third parties like OP&F. Since the new General Assembly has been seated this year, we want to renew the Board's authorization to pursue this legislative change. Attached is a draft of the proposed changes to OP&F's disability statute (Ohio Revised Code Section 742.38). The language allows us to preserve our current model while transitioning over time to a new one if necessary. Amending 742.38 Disability statute, to permit the outsourcing of independent medical examinations for members who are applying for disability benefits. This is due to the increasing difficulty in finding independent physicians to perform these examinations

The committee authorizes OP&F's General Counsel to pursue the proposed changes to OP&F's disability statute along with OP&F's legislative consultant to have the proposal introduced in the 133rd General Assembly.

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Mr. Desmond moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, that the Governmental Affairs and Policy Committee authorizes OP&F's General Counsel to pursue the proposed changes to OP&F's disability statute, as outlined above with OP&F's legislative consultant to have the proposal introduced in the 133rd General Assembly. The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: M. Miller and Desmond

Nays: None

- **Stagger Elected Trustees Term:** OP&F is seeking legislation to permanently offset OP&F Trustees' term in office for the police member position. The firefighter member position was staggered to fixed their term dates to not expire at the same time;
- **General Update Items:** The committee discussed the possibility of extending the DROP program to ten years. Mr. Hewit informed the committee that since the cost of DROP is neutral, it may be hard to find any support to change the term of this benefit; and
- The General Assembly's schedule for the remainder of 2019 was provided as an FYI.

AGENDA ITEMS 3:

Federal Legislation Update: Ms. Foley outlined the Federal Developments for fall 2019 to the committee: Senator Brown intends to introduce /Age 50 Medicare Buy-In for retired first responders. OP&F made the following comments regarding the proposed legislation:

1. The age 50 is fine as a starting point for the legislation. We recognize that the age could be changed (perhaps increased to 55) as the bill moves through the legislative process. Age 55 would also be acceptable to us.
2. In regards to the direct negotiations on drug pricing (Section 3) is a controversial issue. We understand its link to overall Medicare spending, but believe it will make passage of the bill much more difficult. We feel it should not be part of the legislation at this time.
3. We would defer to the national groups on this question. They'll have a better sense of what it will cost to fund an outreach and education effort throughout the country.

AGENDA ITEM 4:

Open Discussion

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Daniel Desmond, Chair

Materials Provided/Attached:

1. GAPC Minutes 061819;
2. Fall 2019 State Legislative Agenda;
3. Proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code Section 742.38; and
4. Federal Legislative Update Memo, MB Foley, 6/27/19