

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund
MINUTES

Government Affairs & Policy Committee
140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio
January 26, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

In attendance:

Committee Members/Trustees:

Britt, Deal and **Corvi** on site and Czack, **Drum** and **Heller** via GoToMeeting

Staff:

Duncan, Foley, Gallagher and McElroy

Others Present:

Adam Hewit, Robert Blazer and Nick Blazer, OP&F's Legislative Consultants

AGENDA ITEM 1:

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Drum seconded a motion that the committee approves the December 1, 2020 Government Affairs and Policy Committee minutes. The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Drum, Heller and Corvi

Nays: None

AGENDA ITEM 2:

State Legislative Update: Mr. Adam Hewit, Mr. Robert Blazer, OP&F Legislative Consultants updated the committee of the current legislations activities during this lame duck session:

134th GA - Disability Changes

- Authorizes the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) Board of Trustees to assign other health care professionals, in addition to physicians, to conduct examinations of OP&F members applying for disability benefits.
- Permits the Board to (1) grant disability benefits based solely on a member's application and supporting medical documentation or (2) require, before granting benefits, the member to undergo a medical examination, vocational evaluation, or both, conducted by a physician, other health care professional, or vocational evaluator.
- Requires, for a member's disabling condition to be considered permanent, that the condition be expected to last for at least a continuous 12-month period after a disability benefit application is filed.
- Removes the requirement that the pre-employment examination of a prospective member be conducted by a physician.

PTSD – Study – Signed by the Governor – 1/9/21, eff. 90 days

- Creates the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund in the state treasury and designates the Director of Budget and Management as the fund's trustee.
- Specifies the fund is to be used to pay lost wage compensation, medical benefits, and administrative costs associated with public safety officers who are diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder without an accompanying physical injury received in the course of, and arising out of, their employment.

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- Paying for medical, nurse, therapy, and hospital services and medicines required to treat the public safety officer’s PTSD without an accompanying physical injury;
- Paying administrative costs associated with providing the lost wage compensation and the medical benefits listed above.
- Prohibits an employer from discharging, demoting, reassigning, or taking any other punitive action against a public safety officer because the officer files a claim or institutes, pursues, or testifies in any proceedings related to compensation or benefits paid from the fund.
- Requires the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, in consultation with specified entities, to have prepared an actuarial valuation and report that answers specific questions about funding and administrative requirements associated with paying claims from the fund. *The Board shall be reimbursed by the Office of Budget and Management for up to \$500,000 for the expenses incurred in preparing the study
- The actuarial study and report required by the bill must be completed no later than October 1, 2021. Immediately on completion, copies of the report must be sent to the OP&F Board, the Director of Budget and Management, the Speaker of the House, the House Minority Leader, the Senate President, and the Senate Minority Leader.
 - Minority Leader – Kenny Yuko
 - Assistant Minority Leader – Cecil Thomas
 - Minority WHIP – Nickie Antonio
 - Assistant Minority – Tina Maharath

AGENDA ITEM 3:

Open discussion: The committee ask staff to track any legislation regarding mandatory corvid vaccinations for public safety workers.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 11:59 a.m.



Stephen A. Corvi
Chair Governmental Affairs & Policy Committee

Committee Materials Provided/Attached:

1. Governmental Affairs & Policy Committee Minutes, December 1, 2020; and
2. Hewitt Assn. OPF Agenda, dated January 26, 2021.