FIRE AND POLICE PENSION ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL Board Meeting - Conference Call
Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Agenda

7:00 a.m.  Call to Order - SPECIAL Board Meeting

1. HB 10-1354 Discussion
2. Other Matters

7:30 a.m.  ADJOURN
HB 10-1354 Discussion

Mr. Lindahl reported to the Board that HB 10-1354 has been introduced at the legislature. HB 10-1354 proposes to repeal the interim committees that currently are established in statute in an effort to further reduce budget costs at the legislature. The bill has bipartisan support. The elimination of all standing committees would include the Police Officers’ and Firefighters’ Pension Reform Commission (the PRC). The bill also provides for future interim committees to convene on an ad hoc basis, when a joint resolution establishes such a committee for a one-year period. Mr. Lindahl reported that the bill is scheduled to be heard on Thursday morning, March 18, 2010, during the regularly scheduled FPPA Board meeting, and he stated that the purpose of the conference call meeting was to seek direction from the board. Mr. Lindahl reported that the board can support, oppose, or remain neutral regarding the elimination of the PRC.

Mr. Lindahl reported that the passage of the bill and the elimination of the PRC would significantly affect FPPA. There would no longer be a standing interim committee made up of legislative leadership having oversight responsibilities to
FPPA. The PRC allowed FPPA the opportunity to present current information to the legislature and also gave FPPA a level of awareness in regard to the funding status of the organization and knowledge of how defined benefits plans are managed. The passage of this legislation would affect FPPA in the following ways:

1. It would change the process by which FPPA seeks introduction of legislation.
2. It would change the process for recruiting bill sponsorship of proposed legislation.
3. It would increase the need to provide education on the history of old-hire funding in order to ensure the completion of the state-assisted Old Hire contributions, as the historical understanding of the issue is lost with term limits and with more recent payment deferrals due to budget limitations.

Mr. Lindahl stated that, going forward, the average number of bills for which FPPA would seek sponsorship would likely be more limited -- one or two bills each year. In the past, the PRC sponsorship of bills did not count against the limit of 5 bills imposed on legislators, which reduced competition for legislative sponsorship.

Mr. Lindahl stated that one option the board could choose would be to request that the bill be amended to maintain the PRC as a standing committee that meets during the regular session and which, therefore, would not incur per diem costs of an interim committee, adversely affecting the state budget. However, this option would not resolve the bill sponsorship issue, as bills from a standing committee are not exempt from the bill limits. Bill Clayton stated that the bill has bi-partisan support and 35 co-sponsors, and it appears at this time that the bill will pass. Mr. Clayton noted that a presentation could be made prior to the legislature convening to a joint committee, like the Finance Committee. Joint committees meet at the beginning of the year, with, for example, local government, to learn about the issues.

Chairman Johnson expressed concern about the inevitable change of membership in the Senate and the House, further complicating joint committee support for FPPA. Kirk Miller urged the involvement of FPPA lobbyists to advance the presence of FPPA at the legislature. Tony Lombard suggested a meeting with the bill drafter and seeking to negotiate that FPPA bills not be counted against the legislator limits. Mr. Lombard advised that testimony at Thursday’s hearing by FPPA’s General Counsel regarding concerns of the bill would be positively received.

It was the consensus of the board to remain neutral regarding HB 10-1354. The board directed Mr. Lindahl, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Lombard to request that a standing committee be assigned to meet with FPPA to hear FPPA’s issues and consider possible future legislation.

At 7:23 a.m., Todd Bower made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue Eaton seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY.