

2009 Legislative Session

March 2009

The complete Bill Draft Request (BDR) list for the 2009 Legislative Session is now available on the Legislature's web site (www.leg.state.nv.us). The bills and BDRs listed below are being tracked by PERS' staff for potential impacts to the Retirement System. Currently, there is no additional language available for the BDRs. Once the BDR is introduced as a bill and the language is available, the Retirement Board will determine their position on the bill which staff will then post. This list will be updated monthly.

Assembly Bills

Assembly Bill 92 (BDR #400) – Requested by the Nevada Supreme Court – Revises the provisions governing benefits of a retired justice or judge. The Board has adopted a neutral position on Sections 1-8 of this bill, so long as the costs associated with the benefit modifications to the Judicial Retirement System are recognized and funded. The Board has adopted a position opposing Sections 9 and 10. This bill was prefiled and introduced on December 15, 2008. On February 2, 2009, the bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. This bill was declared exempt on March 2, 2009.

Assembly Bill 198 (BDR #29) – Requested by Assemblyman Segerblom – Makes certain changes concerning the Public Employees' Retirement System. This bill creates the Deferred Savings Option Program within the Public Employees' Retirement System. This bill was introduced on February 19, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board has adopted a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 198, as drafted based upon concerns raised by PERS' tax counsel, the uncertainty as to the potential cost and the Board's funding policy.

Assembly Bill 282 (BDR #23-633) – Requested by Assembly Minority Leader – Revises provisions relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System. This bill amends the eligibility requirements for retirement of certain members of the System whose effective date of membership is on or after July 1, 2009; and requires a portion of the unrestricted balance in the State General Fund at the end of each biennium be deposited in PERS under certain circumstances. This bill was introduced on March 10, 2009 and referred to concurrent committees, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. On March 16th, this bill was declared exempt. The Retirement Board adopted a position opposing Section 1 of Assembly Bill 282, as written and adopted a neutral position on Section 2 of Assembly Bill 282.

Assembly Bill 356 (BDR #23-1081) – Requested by Assemblyman Ohrenschall – Revises provisions relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System. This bill provides that a person may present certain evidence to the PERS Board to be named a survivor beneficiary or additional payee of a deceased member who has not designated a survivor beneficiary or additional payee on a form provided by the System. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board adopted a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 356.

Assembly Bill 374 (BDR #174) – Requested by Assemblywoman McClain – Revises provisions concerning the Public Employees’ Retirement System. This bill revises provisions governing the employment of retired public employees with public employers under the System. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board adopted a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 374.

Assembly Bill 434 (BDR #23-206) – Requested by Assemblyman Cobb – Provides for use of 401(k) plans by state employees. This bill creates the Public Employees’ Retirement Management Board; requires this Board to establish a defined contribution retirement plan for public employees; requires new public employees to participate in the retirement plan; and provides forfeiture of public employee retirement benefits if the employee is convicted of certain crimes. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board adopted a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 434.

Assembly Bill 440 (BDR #23-132) – Requested by Assemblyman Hardy – Revises provisions governing the reemployment of certain retired persons under the Public Employees’ Retirement System. This bill repeals the prospective expiration of provisions governing the reemployment of certain retired public employees who are hired to fill positions for which there is a critical labor shortage; prohibits such employees from reenrolling in PERS; and limits the compensation and certain benefits paid to such employees. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board adopted a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 440.

Assembly Bill 453 (BDR #34-879) – Requested by Assemblywoman Woodbury – Provides incentives for teachers who teach at certain at-risk schools or in specialized classrooms. This bill will be removed from the list as it does not impact PERS.

Assembly Bill 463 (BDR #23-1057) – Requested by Assemblywoman Smith – Restricts a department, division or other agency of this State or a local government from employing a person as a consultant. This bill relates to governmental administration; restricts a department, division or other agency of this State or a local government from employing a person as a consultant; and requires a school district to submit to the Interim Finance Committee a report concerning each consultant employed by the school district. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Retirement Board has not taken a position on this bill.

Senate Bills

Senate Bill 41 (BDR #308) – Requested by PERS – Revises certain administrative provisions and provides clarification of choices within the Judicial Retirement System. This bill contains technical language changes for PERS and the JRS requested by the Retirement Board. The Board has adopted a position supporting Senate Bill 41. This bill was prefiled and introduced on December 5, 2008. On February 2, 2009, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. A hearing for SB 41 was held on March 2, 2009, and no action was taken on the bill. On March 16, 2009, the Senate Committee on Finance voted Do Pass. On March 17, 2009 SB 41 was read a second time. On March 19th the bill was placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Senate Bill 71 (BDR #325) – Requested by the Department of Veterans Affairs – Revises provision relation to veterans. The Board has adopted a position supporting Sections 18 through 20 which allows veterans to purchase service for military time. This bill was prefiled and introduced on December 12, 2008. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Education on February 2, 2009. A hearing was scheduled for February 18th and no action was taken. A second hearing was held on February 23, 2009, and no action was taken on the bill. On March 16th Senate Bill 71 received notice of eligibility for exemption.

Senate Bill 81 (BDR #34-15) – Requested by Senator Cegavske – Establishes the Special Needs Scholarship Program. This bill allows private schools to participate in the scholarship program. Section 40 of this bill amends NRS 286.070 to exclude a private school from the definition of “public employer”. Under NRS 286.070 private schools do not fall under the definition of “public employer” therefore, an amendment is unnecessary and could create confusion as to the definition of “public employer”. The Board has adopted a position opposing Section 40 of Senate Bill 81. This bill was prefiled and introduced on December 15, 2008. On February 2, 2009 the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. A hearing was scheduled for March 2, 2009, and PERS offered an amendment to remove section 40 from the bill. No action was taken on the bill. On February 24th, 2009, Senate Bill 81 was declared exempt.

Senate Bill #174 (BDR #23-768) – Requested by Senator McGinness – Exempts certain retired public employees who are serving as volunteer firefighters from certain consequences of reemployment with a public employer. This bill was introduced on March 5, 2009, and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. The Retirement Board has adopted a neutral position on Senate Bill 174.

Senate Bill 284 (BDR #23-687) – Requested by Senator Townsend – Exempts certain retired public officers and employees from disqualification for retirement allowances for reemployment with a public employer under PERS. This bill was introduced on March 16, 2009 and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. The Retirement Board has adopted a position in opposition to Senate Bill 284.

Senate Bill 299 (BDR #17-561) – Requested by Senator Nolan – Makes various changes concerning compensation of legislators. This bill does not impact the Legislators’ Retirement System so it will be removed from the list.

BDR’s

BDR #23-891 – Requested by Assemblyman Cobb – Provides for the forfeiture of any pension and retirement benefit of public employee or officer who steals funds, misuses his office or commits a job-related felony.

BDR #1168 – Requested by the Department of Administration – Makes various changes to the provisions governing the Public Employees’ Retirement System.