S-448 (Allen)/A-2313 (Vainieri Huttle)
Requires health insurers, SHBP, and SEHBP health benefits coverage for eating disorders.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

Discussion: The Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill because it usurps the authority of the SHBP and the SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

Coverage for the eating disorders mentioned in this bill is already provided by the SHBP/SEHBP. However, they are not statutorily mandated.

S-659 (Turner)/A-2297 (Vainieri Huttle)
Requires health insurance coverage for contraceptives to include prescriptions for 12 months.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

Discussion: The Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill because:

- It may generate waste,
- A plan participant could terminate prior to the end of the 12 month prescription period,
- The State plans currently provide reminders about prescription refills,
- Its enactment may encourage the expansion of this mandate to other prescribed drugs, and
- It usurps the authority of the SHBP and the SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

S-707 (Gordon)
Requires certain health benefits plans to provide coverage for outpatient behavioral health care services.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

Discussion: Limiting comments to this bill’s impact on the SHBP/SEHBP, the Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill because:

- It eliminates the ability for the plans to exercise utilization management review,
- It takes away the determination of medical necessity from the plan and transfers it to the medical provider,
- There are significant additional costs associated with the bill, and
- It usurps the authority of the SHBP and the SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

**S-859 (Stack)**
"Volunteers in Public Service Pension Reform Act," allows municipal elected officials in PERS to retire based on other PERS service and remain in office with no salary or health care benefits for that office.

**Motion:** Recommend to enact.

**Discussion:** The Commission recommends enactment of this bill because no compensation or employer-paid active employee health benefits would be provided once the elected official retires and continues in the public office. However, the bill does provide an exception to the “bona fide retirement” rules regarding returning to public employment after retirement. The Commission’s decision to recommend enactment is predicated upon the determination that this bill’s enactment will not jeopardize the tax qualified status of the pension plan.

**A-1082 (Brown)**
Makes all members of Legislature ineligible to participate in SHBP.

**Motion:** Recommend to enact.

**Discussion:** The Commission recommends enactment of this bill because it would result in a temporary reduction in the State’s employer health benefit costs. However, its enactment would only apply to members of the State legislature and not to all part-time elected and appointed officials who are currently eligible for employer paid SHBP coverage. The Commission recommends ADDITIONALLY CONSIDERING extending its provisions to part-time locally elected and appointed officials who continue to receive employer-paid health benefit coverage.

**A-1464 (Lampitt/Coughlin/Conaway/Vainieri Huttle/Lagana)**
Authorizes health care practitioners to provide health care services through telemedicine.

**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

**Discussion:** Limiting comments to this bill’s impact on the SHBP/SEHBP, the Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill because, as written, the bill would not produce a reduction in plan costs, and it usurps the authority of the SHBP and the SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

**A-1783 (Burzichelli/Carroll)**
Increases salary of certain government officials; codifies legislative district office allowance and legislative director salary; opens PERS enrollment to certain elected officers; eliminates PERS/TPAF disability insurance.
Motion: Recommend not to enact, with comment.

Discussion: Although parts of the bill have merit, such as its repeal of the PERS and TPAF long term disability insurance benefit, the Commission considers this bill to be in need of modification because it amends sections of the law that are outdated, specifically, the bill’s salary increase provisions.

ACR-109 (Prieto/Jimenez)/SCR-2 (Sweeney/Turner/Greenstein)
Proposes constitutional amendment to require payments by State to State-administered retirement systems and establish in Constitution right of public employees to pension benefit; provides for enforcement of funding obligations and benefit rights.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

Discussion: The Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill. Without significant structural changes in State revenue and expenditures, quarterly payment requirements would significantly increase the State’s short term cash borrowing needs. Depending on market conditions, additional cash flow borrowing could be impossible and, if possible, would adversely impact State’s credit ratings and increase exiting short term borrowing costs. If financial markets could accommodate additional short term borrowing, the impact on the State budget of higher short term borrowing costs would be offset by earnings on accelerated quarterly payments which would help constrain the ARC. Constitutional amendment requiring State pension contributions will restrict State spending in other areas and/or require tax increases, especially in years when economic conditions otherwise suppress ordinary revenue collections.

The Commission also expressed concern that writing benefit levels into the Constitution would make additional reforms to curtail pension abuses more difficult. Noted abuses cited by members included part time employees grandfathered under prior reforms continuing to receive full year pension credit and then receiving end of career full time positions that dramatically boost pensions.