Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission
Vote Results
March 27, 2015

A-121 (McHose/Space)/A-371 (Caputo)
Eliminates certificated superintendent and administrator exceptions to TPAF retiree reenrollment requirement.

**Motion:** Recommend to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would repeal P.L. 2001, c.355, which allows the depletion of pension fund assets by allowing a certain class of plan participants to collect their pensions while working in a public position, but not contributing to the pension fund. The bill ends the practice of double dipping (collecting a public pension and public salary simultaneously).

A-279 (Simon/Space)
Prohibits elected officials and public employees from enrolling for health benefits with more than one public entity; provides civil action for treble expenses by public entity providing additional coverage.

**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would create implementation problems based upon technical considerations within the bill, as follows: the bill does not define classes of insurer, and; does not reconcile conflicts of interest when civil actions are presented in municipal court.

A-646 (Moriarty)
Prohibits employees of certain organizations from enrolling in State-administered retirement system or health care plan of public employer.

**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would create implementation problems based upon technical considerations within the bill, as follows: the certain organizations affected would be more identifiable if they were expressly defined; there is no alternative service provider identified in the event this bill led to the demise of the certain organizations; local costs for operating alternative entities in lieu of these certain organizations would increase as retirement and health care would be provided through alternative means, and; current employees would be harmed unless the bill were changed to be prospective.

A-807 (Coughlin/Vainieri Huttle)
Requires managed care plans, SHBP, and SEHBP to provide for reasonable accommodation in accessing providers for persons with physical disabilities.

**Motion:** Recommend to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would be cost neutral as the out of network doctor would be required to accept the in network doctor cost and not bill the balance. However, the Commission urges the Plan Design Committees to consider this situation.
A-1053 (Schaer)
Requires contribution for health care benefits provided for certain local elected and appointed officials.

**Motion:** Recommend to enact, with comment.

**Discussion:** This Commission considers the bill’s reference to P.L. 1996, c.8 to be in need of updating to P.L. 2011, c.78 or successor legislation.

A-2543 (Burzichelli)
Prohibits new employees of certain organizations from enrolling in State-administered retirement system or health care plan of public employer.

**Motion:** Tabled.

**Discussion:** The Commission will agenda this bill for the scheduled May 8, 2015 meeting, for further discussion.

A-2560 (Munoz)
Bars certain employees of certain public agencies from participating in PERS; repeals law permitting PERS and TPAF members on leave who work for labor organization to purchase pension credit.

**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would create implementation problems based upon technical considerations within the bill, as follows: the certain organizations affected would be more identifiable if they were expressly defined; there is no alternative service provider identified in the event this bill led to the demise of the certain organizations; local costs for operating alternative entities in lieu of these certain organizations would increase as retirement and health care would be provided through alternative means; the cost could be de minimis for union work were the bill to specify a time limit to such service, and; current employees would be harmed unless the bill were changed to be prospective.

A-4062 (Singleton/Wisniewski/Conaway/Caride/Quijano)
Requires local units and agencies to extend family health coverage for six months to surviving spouse and dependents of public safety officers who had family medical coverage but did not die in the line of duty.

**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

**Discussion:** This bill’s enactment would result in increased costs as those families covered by each of the other pension funds seek this benefit; the bill will eliminate the family’s right to 36 months of COBRA as the application for that coverage must cover the period from the time of the public safety officer’s death; the 6 month benefit sought by the bill could be provided through a payment to the family while the family is covered through its 36 months of COBRA, and; the bill could alternatively limit employer costs by allowing each employer to determine individually whether to provide coverage for 30 days in the unforeseen event of a delay in the start of the 36 months of COBRA. Please note that the Sponsor’s letter to the Commission is appreciated, and the amendment proposed is descriptive of coverage that would be provided by the employer in the event of death resulting from an accident in the line of duty.