Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission Vote Results
October 2, 2015

A-1127 (O'Scanlon)/S-418 (Pennacchio)
Replaces TPAF, PERS, PFRS and SPRS accidental disability benefits with reduced work-related disability benefit; modifies JRS disability benefit.

Motion: Recommend to enact.

Discussion: The enactment of this bill will reduce aggregate annual employer pension costs. However, the Commission did express concerns about the bill because:

- The reduction to the accidental disability pension down to 40 percent in legitimate cases is significant.
- It does not address the definition of a “traumatic event.”
- Although employer pension costs will be reduced, the bill’s monetary impact on the Workers’ Compensation Program is not known and needs to be analyzed.

A-1247 (Prieto/Mukherji/Benson/Garcia/Vainieri Huttle)
Requires health benefits coverage for mammograms for women under 40 who lack access to family medical history due to their or their parent's adoption.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

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

A-1331 (Quijano)
Provides for SHBP New Jersey State Employee Wellness Program with financial incentives for participation in program.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

Discussion: The Commission does not recommend enactment of this bill because a wellness program already exists for State employees as a result of actions taken by the SHBP Plan Design Committee.

A-1793 (O’Donnell/Watson Coleman)
Increases PFRS employee contribution rate; requires new members to be age 50 for special retirement; creates cap on PFRS retiree COLA; restructures PFRS board of trustees and gives it control over fund investments.

Motion: No recommendation, since Assemblyman Jason O’Donnell submitted a request to withdraw A-1793, the Commission did not consider this bill.
Discussion:

A-4498 (Lampitt)
Requires health benefits coverage for juvenile depression screenings.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

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

- The procedure mandated by this bill is already covered under the SHBP/SEHBP,
- Bill’s enactment will result in increased utilization which will drive up plan costs, and
- Health benefit mandate bills impacting the SHBP/SEHBP usurp the authority of the Plan Design Committees.

A-4577 (Lampitt)
Requires health benefits coverage for donated human breast milk under certain conditions.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

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

- It will increase SHBP/SEHBP costs for all employers participating in the plan, and
- It usurps the authority of the SHBP/SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

A-4595 (Benson)/S-3142 (Weinberg)
Requires health insurers to limit patient cost-sharing and provide appeal process concerning certain prescription drug coverage.

Motion: Recommend not to enact.

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

- It will increase SHBP/SEHBP costs for all employers participating in the plan,
- Limiting out-of-pocket financial responsibility legislatively restricts future plan changes, and
- It usurps the authority of the SHBP/SEHBP Plan Design Committees.

S-1588 (Turner)
Reinstates automatic COLA for retirement benefits of members of the State-administered retirement systems.
**Motion:** Recommend not to enact.

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

- It would significantly increase annual State and local employer pension costs, and
- Enacted pension and health benefit reform law already contains a mechanism to re-instate COLA benefits.
- Consideration of legislation dealing with re-instanting COLA should be deferred until the NJ Supreme Court renders its decision regarding this matter.