

Senate Bill 2, Senate Bill 3, Senate Bill 4 Opposition

As a law enforcement officer and member of PBA 314, I am concerned that Senate Bill 2, Senate Bill 3 and Senate Bill 4 will fundamentally alter the collective bargaining process and will eventually do more damage than good to the Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS).

The legislation is a flawed approach to address the issues of pension underfunding and medical costs. As a law enforcement officer, I make the highest pension contribution in the State and if government had treated the pension system as carefully as I have then we would not be discussing funding problems today. Changing pension calculations for future employees means that I will one day work side by side with an officer who, while facing the same risks, receives less of a pension for their service than I will. Law enforcement service should be honored and not blamed for the mistakes government has made in funding pensions in the past or for allowing others to obtain pensions when they don’t rightly deserve one.

It is also disturbing that my ability to negotiate a fair contract is now to be dictated by the State under Senate Bill 3 by mandating that 1.5% of my salary be paid for medical benefits. My employer and the PBA have the ability now to negotiate this and it is heavy handed for the Legislature to set a contribution without knowing what I have already negotiated or what we have given up to obtain good health benefits.

I urge you to vote NO on these bills or support amendments to delete references to PFRS and to allow us to continue negotiating for a fair contract.

Sincerely,

_____ name
_____ street
_____ town/city
_____ state, zip