

**PA10-022**

**HB5401**

Appropriations	4764, 4766, 4770-4771, 4800-4801, 4804-4805, 4812-4813	10
House	909-916	8
Senate	883, 1064-1066	4
		22

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL.53  
PART 4  
895– 1168**

ch/rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

102  
April 14, 2010

Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill as amended is passed.

Mr. Clerk, please call Calendar 231.

THE CLERK:

On page 15, Calendar 231, substitute for House  
Bill Number 5401, AN ACT MAKING CLARIFYING CHANGES TO  
THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES, favorable  
report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Vice Chairman of the  
Appropriations Committee, Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage. Will you explain the  
bill please, sir.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes technical clarifying changes and deletes obsolete language from the teachers' retirement system status.

The obsolete language portion contradicts the definition of pro-ratable retirement, which says if a member accumulates ten years of servers after attaining age 60, they are eligible for an immediate benefit.

The bill also clarifies the language regarding payments to the teachers' retirement system when a local board of education establishes a retirement incentive plan for teachers. The bill carries the support of the administration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

The very busy woman from Bolton, Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, a question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question, madam.

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REP. SAWYER (55th):

Representative, in looking at Section 2 of the bill, the new language, the question that I had, it refers to the members shall pay the remaining percentage of the total cost, if any, in one lump sum not later than 30 days after receipt of notification.

And I had seen in the language that they were going to be removing -- that it was very similar. It was one lump sum prior to retirement.

So in this case, is the -- also, would this payment be made prior to retirement or is it going to be made postretirement? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Roldan, do you care to respond?

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, according to the language, it is one lump sum not later than 30 days after receipt of notification. So I mean, that's as far as I can answer in that. So it would be prior to retirement, would be my assumption in this language, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I couldn't hear what he said.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Roldan, could you repeat that answer, please, a little louder.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Sure, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the gentlelady, according to the language it is one lump sum not later than 30 days after the receipt of the notification. So technically, it is whatever comes before or after which is a retirement or not, but it is 30 days after notification.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So let's clarify that a little bit more. It says, the sum not later than 30 days. Is that a term of art that runs through the rest of the retirement statutes, the 30 day window? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of the

answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I want to thank the gentleman for his very frank answer.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that this has been vetted through LCO and OFA and OLR, but I -- one of the things I always feel a great caution about, Mr. Speaker, is whatever we put a finite date in there not later than 30 days after receipt.

In the case of snowstorms, floodings, those types of things that sometimes close down the state; we run into an issue of 30, 35 days, 40 days. So I'm very cautious about that type of thing when I see it in language.

And I thank the gentleman for his honest answer.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I received a visit today from several retired

teachers. I suspect that other members of the General Assembly were visited by retired teachers as well today.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, a question through you to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Is there anything in this bill that is before us that would somehow reduce the retirement benefits that retired teachers would be entitled to? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you to the gentleman, no. ]

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the proponent for his response.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber.

(Deputy Speaker Altobello in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? If all members voted, please check the board to make sure the vote is properly cast. If all members have voted the machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5401.	
Total Number voting	145
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Those absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill passes.

Representative Olson of the 46th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a motion to suspend the rules to take up House Joint Resolutions 94 through 101 and Senate Joint Resolutions 35 through 42. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

There's a motion on the floor to suspend the rules to take up various resolutions sent from the Senate and also some House resolutions. Is there objection? Is there objection? Seeing none, so ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 307.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 307, House Joint Resolution Number 94,  
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

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SENATE

37  
April 21, 2010

Calendar 401, Senate Bill Number 399, Mr. President, move to refer this item to the Committee on Labor and Public Employees.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar 402, PR; Calendar 413, House Bill Number 5024, Mr. President, move to place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar 414, House Bill Number 5401, move to place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar 415, House Bill Number 5131, Mr. President, move to refer this item to the Education Committee.

THE CHAIR:

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**CONNECTICUT  
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SENATE**

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cd  
SENATE

218  
April 21, 2010

Bill 5265; Calendar 313, substitute for House Bill  
5002.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 314, House Bill 5201.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 340, substitute for  
Senate Bill 175.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 346, substitute for  
Senate Bill 151; Calendar 350, Senate Bill 333;  
Calendar 371, substitute for House Bill 5014.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 375, House Bill 5320.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 379, substitute for  
House Bill 5278; Calendar 380, substitute for House  
Bill 5452; Calendar 381, substitute for House Bill  
5006; Calendar 382, House Bill 5157.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 384, substitute for  
House Bill 5204.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 395, substitute for  
Senate Bill 127; Calendar 396, Senate Bill 147.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 413, House Bill 5024;  
Calendar 414, substitute for House Bill 5401.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 419, substitute for  
House Bill 5303.

Calendar 32 -- page 32, Calendar Number 421,  
substitute for House Bill 5388; and on calendar page  
34, Calendar 46, substitute for Senate Bill 68;

cd  
SENATE

219  
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Calendar 50, substitute for Senate Bill 17.

Calendar page 35, Calendar 64, substitute for  
Senate Bill 187.

Calendar page 37, Calendar 109, substitute for  
Senate Bill 189.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 148, substitute  
for Senate Bill 226.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 182, substitute for  
Senate Bill 218.

Calendar page 41, Calendar 188, substitute for  
Senate Bill 200.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed  
on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

All right. If the Clerk has made an announcement  
that a roll call vote is in progress in the Senate on  
the first consent calendar, the machine will be open.  
Senators may cast their vote.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on  
the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return  
to the chamber.

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SENATE

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April 21, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Would all Senators please check the roll call board to make certain that your vote is properly recorded. If all Senators have voted and if all votes are properly recorded, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk may take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 is passed.

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President, for a -- for an announcement.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**APPROPRIATIONS  
PART 13  
4759 – 4992**

**2010**

1  
wf/gdm APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

March 17, 2010  
10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Harp  
Representative Geragosian

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Frantz, Gomes, Harris,  
Maynard

REPRESENTATIVES: Bartlett, Heinrich, Roldan,  
Miner, Camillo, Dillon,  
Esty, Fleischmann, Genga,  
Hetherington, Hwang,  
Kirkley-Bey, Lewis, Miller,  
O'Neill, Orange, Rebimbas,  
Reynolds, Ritter, Roy,  
Ryan, Stripp, Thompson,  
Villano, Walker, Willis,  
Holder-Winfield, Wood

SENATOR HARP: -- Appropriations Committee hearing  
on a number of bills, and we have -- state  
agency has some legislators who wish to speak  
this morning. We're going to start with  
Darlene Perez. So if you're ready, you can  
come forward and make your presentations.

DARLENE PEREZ: Good morning, Senator Harp,  
Representative Geragosian, and members of the  
Appropriations Committee. My name is Darlene  
Perez and I am the administrator of the  
Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board.

I thank you for the opportunity to be here  
today to speak on behalf of the board in  
support of House Bill 5400, 5401 and 5402.  
House Bill 5400 relates to the reemployment of  
retired teachers in the public schools of  
Connecticut.

While there are existing statutory salary  
limits in place that limit the earnings of a  
retired teacher who is substituting in the

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March 17, 2010  
10:00 A.M.

given to you to vote on, and we're -- we're here to support the version that we submitted.

The important thing about the retired teachers who are going back to work and substituting is that many of them do so to help pay for their health insurance. They are not state employees, so they don't get the same opportunities as state employees do for the state employee health insurance benefit.

In most cases, the retired teacher has to pay the full cost for his or her health insurance. And with the increase in health premiums, we're seeing the average health premium for one individual run about 500 to 600 dollars a month.

So these substitute teachers, these retired teachers, oftentimes go back to teaching, which is their career profession, in order to make these few dollars to help pay for their health insurance costs.

I hear the buzzer. Is that me? Am I supposed to wrap it up?

SENATOR HARP: If you could wrap it up quickly. I know you just have a couple of other things you want to say -- just -- why don't you just, sort of, zip through those?

DARLENE PEREZ: I'd like to quickly just also support House Bill 5401, which is a set of technical changes based on recommendations by the state auditors.

And the most important one to me today is 5402, which relates to the funding of a healthcare consultant. The funding has historically been coming out of general fund appropriations. The September Budget

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10:00 A.M.

Health Committee with her. And I know that she was -- she was an absolutely lovely, lovely human being --

CARYL KOMORNIK: -- (inaudible) -- I taught with her as well, so I had the privilege of knowing her personally.

SENATOR HARP: Okay. That's great. You know I think that the point that you make that the state already accepts FETA service, and that MDTA actually became FETA, is something we might need to think about.

REP. TONG: Senator Harp, if I might add, there a host of programs that are eligible for credit that are very much like the MDTA, Caryl. This includes other --

CARYL KOMORNIK: -- Peace Corp -- Peace Corp, VISTA, Military Teaching Service, those are just a few to add.

SENATOR HARP: Thank you very much.

Are there further questions or comments?

If not, thank you very much.

CARYL KOMORNIK: Thank you very much.

REP. TONG: Thank you.

SENATOR HARP: We're going to move on to the public portion of our hearing, and our first speaker is Robyn Kaplan.

ROBYN KAPLAN-CHO: Good morning, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the committee.

My name is Robyn Kaplan-Cho and I am on staff

HB5400 HB5401  
HB5402  
HB5403  
HB5034  
HB5203

with the Connecticut Education Association, CEA, as the retirement specialist helping teachers navigate and understand the teachers retirement system.

Our -- you have our written testimony which is a little bit lengthy, but these bills are a little technical, so I wanted to give you benefit of that information. Just, real quickly, I don't need to reiterate what Darlene Perez said about Bill 5400, dealing with postretirement employment.

As you heard, the bill, as drafted currently, has some errors in it and I understand that is going to be corrected. The retirement board language we support and hope that you will pass in -- in the manner that they've drafted it.

Their Bill 5401 has some technical changes. We also support those changes. I want to specifically mention Raised Bill 5402. As Darlene mentioned, that is a bill that would allow the cost of the Retired Teachers Health Insurance Fund consultant to be paid out of the Retired Teachers Health Insurance Fund.

That's a critical bill from our perspective and the perspective of active retired teachers and the retirement board. The retirement board literally cannot conduct its business of administering such a complicated health insurance program for retirees without the expertise of a consultant. And, as it stands now, there is no funding for that. So it's created a lot of turmoil and stress for sure, not just for the agency, but for the teachers and future retired teachers who expect to receive those benefits. So we strongly urge you to support that bill.

for the record



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**March 17, 2010**

*Robert L. Genuario*  
*Secretary*  
*Office of Policy and Management*

**Regarding:**

House Bill 5034, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL CREDITED SERVICE IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICE IN ANOTHER STATE

House Bill 5069, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF CREDIT IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR TEACHING SERVICE IN SUMMER SCHOOL AND ALTERNATIVE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

House Bill 5401, AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Debicella, Representative Miner, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on five bills related to the Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB).

House Bill 5034 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL CREDITED SERVICE IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICE IN ANOTHER STATE allows a teacher to purchase up to three years of additional credited service for service as a teacher in another state. This bill is unnecessary because a teacher can purchase one year of out-of-state service for every two years of in-state service with no limit on the amount of time purchased. However, if the intent is to allow a teacher with less than six years of in-state service to purchase three years of out-of-state service, then we would oppose this bill as the provisions to buy back service time are not cost neutral.

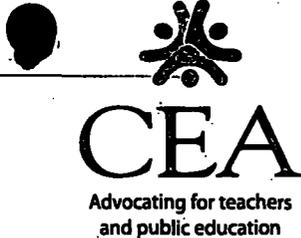
House Bill 5069 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF CREDIT IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR TEACHING SERVICE IN SUMMER SCHOOL AND ALTERNATIVE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS. The Legislature should be aware that under current practices, allowing a teacher to purchase credit in the Teachers' Retirement System is not cost neutral to the state. Teachers only pay one-half of the present value of the full actuarial cost of the benefit increase. Every year allowed to be purchased has a direct impact on the state. Passage of this bill and bills like it increase the state's unfunded liability. As you know the current unfunded liability for the Teachers' Retirement System is \$6.5 billion.

HB 5069 proposes allowing members of the teachers' retirement system to purchase credited service in the system for serving as a teacher in a summer school program or an alternative after-school program. The administration is opposed to adding such service as the list of purchasable service has increased each year. While the intent of the legislation to provide an incentive for teachers to work in these programs is laudable, the result of adding additional service has a significant fiscal impact as it increases the unfunded past service liability, which in turn increases the state's required contribution to the pension fund.

House Bill 5401 - AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES deletes obsolete language from the definition of deferred vested retirement pertaining to the age upon which the benefit shall be payable. The bill also clarifies language pertaining to the timing of a member's payment of credited service under early retirement incentive plans. OPM is in support of this bill.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this written testimony, and I ask that you act favorably on House Bill 5401 and reject House Bills 5034 and 5069.

Public Speaker 1  
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**TESTIMONY OF ROBYN KAPLAN-CHO,  
RETIREMENT SPECIALIST,  
THE CONNECTICUT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA)  
IN SUPPORT OF**

**H.B. 5400 - AAC REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED  
TEACHERS**

**H.B. 5401 - AAC TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE  
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
STATUTES**

**H.B. 5402 - AAC EXPENSES FOR HEALTH BENEFIT  
PLANS UNDER THE TEACHERS'  
RETIREMENT FUND**

**-CEA's ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS**

**BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 17, 2010**

HB 5034 HB 5203

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Robyn Kaplan-Cho and, as CEA's Retirement Specialist, I am responsible for educating teachers about the pension benefits provided to them under the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System.

I am here to comment on Raised Bill 5400 as well as Raised Bills 5401 and 5402, the latter two of which have been requested by the State Teachers' Retirement Board (STRB). I also will provide you with proposed amendments on three additional issues of importance to CEA members.

Raised Bill 5400 relates to a retired teacher returning to work as a Connecticut public school teacher. The Teachers' Retirement Board has proposed modifying the current law (by deleting the sentence containing the definition of the term "temporary") to allow a retired teacher to work for more than one school year as long as they do not exceed the earnings limitation. This conforms to the STRB's current practice. However, as written, RB 5400 would limit a retiree's ability to be reemployed beyond one school year. Neither the STRB nor CEA supports this particular change. Rather, we would ask that RB 5400 be amended to remove the one year

**Connecticut Education  
Association**

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limit on the number of years that a reemployed retiree can work, as long as the earnings limit is not exceeded. The substitute language should read:

*Section 1. Section 10-183v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):*

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a [former] teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may not be employed in a teaching position receiving compensation paid out of public money appropriated for school purposes except that such [former] teacher may be employed [temporarily] in such a position and receive no more than forty-five per cent of the maximum salary level for the assigned position. Any [former] teacher who receives in excess of such amount shall reimburse the board for the amount of such excess. [Temporary employment means employment for less than a school year.] Notice of such employment shall be sent [semi-annually on January thirty-first and June thirtieth] to the board by the employer[ing officials] and [by] the retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of each assignment.*

Subsection (b) of this bill also closely resembles the STRB's proposal but improperly deletes the requirement that a retiree must receive prior approval from the STRB before working in a subject shortage area for a second year. The language in this bill implies that there should be approval but deletes the current language that explicitly requires prior approval. CEA's position is that this prior approval language should be retained.

In short, CEA requests that this Committee adopt the proposed language originally submitted by the STRB on the issue of reemployment of retirees, rather than the language contained in this particular bill.

Raised Bill 5401 simply makes technical changes to the teachers' retirement statutes in order to eliminate obsolete language. CEA supports these changes.

Raised Bill 5402 is an extremely significant bill and CEA strongly supports its passage. The STRB administers a very complicated Medicare supplement plan to thousands of retired teachers and spouses through Stirling Benefits. Over the years, the STRB has relied heavily on the expertise of a health care consultant to advise them on all aspects of the administration of this plan including such things as writing and analyzing RFP's, calculating the annual premiums, providing guidance on compliance and recommending cost-saving initiatives. This advice and counsel is paramount since the STRB has never had the in-house resources or expertise to provide this service. However, the September state budget mitigation plan eliminated the funding for a health plan consultant. This elimination was devastating for not only the STRB as the administering agency but also for all of the retirees and future retirees who participate in the plan and expect it to be run efficiently and effectively. Despite repeated pleas from the STRB for the funding to be restored, it was not. Consequently, in order to ensure the continued prudent operation of the health insurance program, the STRB has requested this bill. It allows the health care consultant costs, up to \$150,000 annually, to be paid directly from the retired

Agency Speaker 1  
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TESTIMONY BY ADMINISTRATOR DARLENE PEREZ  
CONNECTICUT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
MARCH 17, 2010

H.B. 5400 AAC REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED TEACHERS  
H.B. 5401 AAC TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT  
SYSTEM STATUTES  
H.B. 5402 AAC EXPENSES FOR HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS UNDER THE  
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Darlene Perez and I am the Administrator of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB). Thank you for the opportunity given to me to present the Board's support in favor of H.B.s 5400, 5401 and 5402.

H.B. 5400 relates to the reemployment of retired teachers in the public schools of Connecticut. While there are existing salary limits in place that limit the earnings of a retired school teacher who is substituting in the public schools of CT, there is also language that limits the substitute service a retired teacher provides on a "temporary basis" defined as less than a school year. This definition prohibits a school teacher from working in the same assignment from the first day of school through the last day of school. The TRB feels this language should be eliminated so that the same retired teacher who returns as a substitute can begin the school year and if necessary can complete the school year so that the school district doesn't have to hire two substitutes for the same assignment within the same school year. H.B. as written restricts post retirement substituting to one year. The TRB supports the following language which would allow the retiree to work in excess of one year under the salary limitations already in place as many of our retirees depend on substitute pay to offset their cost of insurance after retirement, which is usually paid for in full by the retiree with a small subsidy from the state but without any employer subsidy, and in addition will allow a substitute to work from September through June, if needed, with salary limitations that are already in place.

***Sec. 10-183v. Reemployment of teachers. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a [former] teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may not be employed in a teaching position receiving compensation paid out of public money appropriated for school purposes except that such [former] teacher may be employed [temporarily] in such a position and receive no more than forty-five per cent of the maximum salary level for the assigned position. Any [former] teacher who receives in***

*excess of such amount shall reimburse the board for the amount of such excess. [Temporary employment means employment for less than a school year.] Notice of such employment shall be sent [semi-annually on January thirty-first and June thirtieth] to the board by the [employing officials] EMPLOYER and [by] the retired teacher AT THE TIME OF HIRE AND at the end of each assignment.*

H.B. 5401 has been submitted to make technical changes to delete obsolete language which was recommended by the State Auditors of Public Accounts in recent audit findings. The TRB supports these changes.

H.B. 5402 relates to the funding of a health care consultant for the TRB who has relied on General Fund appropriations for this critical and on-going need. The health care consultant provides services such as the following:

Identifies and resolves systemic issues with the health care vendors.  
 Calculates the premium equivalent for the health care plans (prescription, medical, dental and vision/hearing)  
 Prepares reports and cost analysis on health plan changes.  
 Maintains a health fund model used in forecasting financial needs for benefits.  
 Provides annual HIPAA training for staff.  
 Writes RFP's for the health care vendors services (medical, dental and prescriptions)  
 Prepares financial analysis on pricing offers received from vendors.

Provides guidance and recommendations on:

- appeals and prior authorization requests,
- plan enhancements,
- industry standards,
- cost containment initiatives,
- Federal and State legislation,
- claim/coverage complaints.
- HIPAA compliance

The September budget mitigation budget eliminated the funding for these services. Absent of general fund appropriations for these services the TRB considers this bill crucial to the continued financial and administrative success of it's multiple health care plans for current and future retired teachers of CT. The TRB submitted and fully supports this bill.