

Select Committee on Pension Policy



Work Session on Teleconferencing

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July 20, 2010

New Law – Boards And Commissions

- No travel reimbursements from the General Fund
 - Use alternate meeting formats whenever possible
- SCPP not funded by General Fund
 - Law *encourages* minimized travel and alternate meeting formats
- SCPP studied teleconferencing last interim
 - Assistant Attorney General for SCPP prepared draft rule
 - Postponed decision for further consideration



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Executive Committee Instructed Staff To Develop Options With Two Goals

- Consistent policy
- Encourage in-person attendance

Option 1: Do Not Allow Teleconferencing

- Pros
 - Consistent and simple
 - Encourages in-person participation
 - Does not increase the likelihood of technological problems and distractions
- Cons
 - Does not respond to Legislature's stated intent
 - Inflexible
 - May reduce overall participation



Option 2: Allow Unrestricted Teleconferencing

- Pros
 - Consistent and simple
 - Meet's Legislature's intent
 - May increase participation
- Cons
 - May encourage members not to attend in person
 - Increases likelihood of technological problems and distractions
 - Requires additional efforts by chair and staff to accommodate

Option 3: Chair's Discretion

- Chair's approval must be obtained prior to meeting
- Chair decides based on factors



Option 3 (Continued): Chair Decides Based On Factors

- Member's attendance record
- Reason for not attending
- Number of members not attending in person
- Importance of vote
- Time constraints
- Inclement weather
- Need for a quorum



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Option 3 (Continued): Burden Is On Member

- Must get chair's approval prior to meeting
- Ensure a stable and clear connection
- No disruptions
- Able to view all presented materials
- Chair may terminate participation if burden not met



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Option 3 (Continued): Pros And Cons

- Pros
 - Encourages, but does not require in-person attendance.
 - Allows flexibility by providing guidance, rather than a bright-line rule
- Cons
 - Discretion allows for different outcomes between chairs
 - May encourage members not to attend in person
 - Requires additional efforts by chair and staff to accommodate

Other States

- National Association of Public Pension Attorneys Survey
 - Surveyed 41 retirement fund boards in 29 states (and the District of Columbia)
- Thirty-three allow voting by phone



Not Always A Bright-Line Rule

- Survey results included in meeting materials
- Some examples from different boards:
 - Voting by phone allowed:
 - Once per 12 month rolling period
 - Three meetings per year
 - Votes taken between board meetings may be taken by phone
 - Regular board meetings, members must be present to vote
 - Members may vote by video conference, but not teleconference
 - Remote location must be available to the public

Next Steps

- The SCPP may choose one of the following
 - Take no action
 - Enact one of the presented options
 - Request additional options or modification of a presented option
- If directed, staff will bring back revised rules for final SCPP consideration