

Select Committee on Pension Policy

P.O. Box 40914
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ABOUT THE 2016 MERGER STUDY

In the 2016 legislative session, a bill (SB 6668) was proposed that would have merged the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan 1 (LEOFF 1) and Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1) retirement systems. That bill did not pass.

Later in session the 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget (2ESHB 2376, Section 106) was amended to require the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) to study:

- ❖ LEOFF 1/TRS 1 merger (in the context of SB 6668).
- ❖ LEOFF 1/LEOFF 2 merger (in the context of updating of 2011 Merger Study Report, see below).

This analysis must include the implications for the following areas:

- ❖ Tax.
- ❖ Legal.
- ❖ Fiscal/Actuarial.
- ❖ Policy.
- ❖ Administrative.

The proviso also requires the SCPP to receive stakeholder input, and submit a report to the Legislature by January 9, 2017.

Senator Barbara Bailey

John Boesenberg
PERS/Higher Ed Employers

***Representative Bruce Chandler, Vice Chair**

***Senator Steve Conway, Chair**

Annette Creekpau
PERS Employers

***Randy Davis**
TRS Actives

***Beverly Freeman**
PERS Employers

***Marcie Frost, Director**
Department of Retirement Systems

***Bev Hermanson**
PERS Retirees

Senator Steve Hobbs

Robert Keller
PERS Actives

Representative Matt Manweller

Byron Olson
PERS Employer

Representative Timm Ormsby

Senator Mark Schoesler

David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management

Representative Derek Stanford

J. Pat Thompson
PERS Actives

Robert Thurston
WSPRS Retirees

David Westberg
SERS Actives

**Executive Committee*

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leg.wa.gov/SCPP.htm

ABOUT THE 2011 MERGER STUDY REPORT

In the 2011 legislative session, a bill (HB 2097) was proposed that would have merged the LEOFF 1 and LEOFF 2 retirement systems. That bill did not pass.

Later in session the 2011 Supplemental Operating Budget (2ESHB 1087, Section 105) was amended to require the Office of the State Actuary (OSA) to study a merger of the LEOFF 1 and LEOFF 2 retirement systems.

This report is available on the OSA website:

http://osa.leg.wa.gov/Actuarial_Services/Publications/PDF_Docs/Pension_Studies/11LEOFFMergStudy.pdf.

ABOUT THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PENSION POLICY

The SCPP meets in between legislative sessions for the purpose of:

- ❖ Studying issues and policies affecting the state's public employee retirement systems.
- ❖ Making recommendations to the Legislature regarding changes.

More information about the SCPP is available on the SCPP website:

<http://leg.wa.gov/SCPP/>.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT

A web survey is available on the SCPP website:

<http://leg.wa.gov/SCPP/Publications/Pages/2016MergerStudy.aspx>.

Stakeholders can also submit a letter or email to the SCPP instead. All stakeholder input will be made available verbatim at some future date.

All submitted responses may be subject to public disclosure.

The SCPP will be accepting responses until August 31, 2016.

Correspondence received after that date will still be collected, but may be too late to inform the analysis.

In order to assist the analysis, staff is currently compiling the responses, and preparing a document that wherever possible restates the responses in the form of questions. For example, if a member says, "I am worried that a merger will impact my benefits", that may be restated for analysis as: "Will a merger impact benefits for members?"

If you would like to send comments without using the online survey, please send them to the following:

Office of the State Actuary
Attn: Merger Study Results
PO Box 40914
Olympia, WA 98504-0914

Email: state.actuary@leg.wa.gov

Here is a printable version of the survey that appears on the SCPP website.

1. (Optional) I am...
 - a. An active member of LEOFF 1
 - b. A retired member of LEOFF 1
 - c. An active member of TRS 1
 - d. A retired member of TRS 1
 - e. An active member of LEOFF 2
 - f. A retired member of LEOFF 2
 - g. An employer of LEOFF 1/2 members
 - h. An employer of TRS 1 members
 - i. Other interested stakeholder (or prefer not to say)

2. (Optional) If the Legislature proposed a merger of LEOFF 1 and TRS 1, then I would be...
 - a. In favor
 - b. Opposed
 - c. It depends on the provisions of the merger

