

State Universities Annuitants Association



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SUAA MINI BRIEFING – November 9, 2011

While the House Pensions and Personnel Committee passed **SB512 House Amendment #2** with a 5 – 4 vote it seems that there are still problems – a big hole with the funding. Plus, it does not seem like the votes are secured. In polling some of the House members about their votes, we heard everything from yes, haven't made up my mind yet, dun no, maybe, no, and Hell No!

The Committee votes were: McCarthy (D) yes; Nekritz (D) yes; Poe (R) no; Biss (D) no; Burke (D) no; May (D) no; Morrison (R) yes; Senger (R) yes; Winters (R) yes.

McCarthy, Nekritz, Biss, May and Senger were involved with the Pension Working Groups held in Chicago earlier this fall. At least four of those voting suggested during the working groups that they were amenable to working on alternative legislation to SB512. Two held to these possibilities in the hearing. It is unfortunate that the Working Groups meeting was cancelled during the first week of Veto session and not rescheduled for this last week. Other legislators who were involved with the Working Groups are a bit troubled too as there were ideas being tossed around that were most likely doable.

Many are concerned that there is nothing in this legislation to provide a mechanism for the State to make its payments to the pension systems. According to the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club this is an administrative problem; does not need to be legislated.

And to be clear, this second amendment was written by an attorney from a Chicago law firm that does business with the Civic Committee of the Chicago Commercial Club. It was not written by legislative staff or the Legislative Reference Bureau (the Bureau put the amendment into proper bill form).

SB512 HA2 could be called in the House tomorrow. If it is not, then January will be the next opportunity or during Spring Session. What does this mean? It means that there would still be time for alternative legislation.

Switching topics – Senator Schoenberg announced yesterday that he will not be running for the Senate again. Representative Biss is interested in this Senate seat. Senator Schoenberg is the sponsor of SB175 – Health Insurance Premiums for State Retirees.

Most important for university employees – **HB3873 Rep. Luis Arroyo – repeal of employee tuition waivers for children**. At this time, the bill is in House Rules Committee. Most likely this bill will not be assigned until Spring Session.

Hopefully the news tomorrow will be that SB512 HA2 was stalled again!