



Association of Montana Retired Public Employees

P.O. Box 603, Helena, MT 59624-0603

On the web at www.amrpe.org

A non-profit corporation of P.E.R.S. Retirees representing P.E.R.S. Retirees

June 20, 2019

Dear AMRPE Member,

Greetings, I am writing to give a summary of the 2019 legislative session including a “heads up” for HB 715. In a nutshell, this past legislative session was positive for retired public employees, positive in the sense that no action was taken against our retirement benefits. Our legislative lobbyists did an outstanding job of watching any bills that could negatively impact association members and helped ensure that no benefits were lost. For more information, a comprehensive list of retirement related bills and actions taken are posted on our website at www.amrpe.org.

The two study bills passed that relate to our retirement systems and may lead to changes down the road. One was a requirement to study the effects of merging the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System into one single agency. The hope is that efficiencies will be gained from such a merger. Your board does not support this idea, as we understand that this would likely be very disruptive to both systems, and is unlikely that any minor efficiencies gained would not be worth the cost.

The second study bill that passed was HB 715, which provided for “a financial modernization and risk analysis study.” A copy of this bill is on our website. The bill contains language that may ultimately affect the retirement systems, including statements like, “exploring revenue sufficiency for ... pensions” and “research related to ... pension stress testing (HB 715, page 8).” Not knowing what the end result of the study will be, our lobbyists will attend a few meetings of this study group and report back to the Board regarding the decisions and direction of the group. If we believe that the direction of the study group is not positive or that poor decisions are being made, we may seek your assistance in terms of contacting specific legislators.

We will continue to post information on our website about HB 715 and other areas of interest. If you have any questions or comments please call our administrators at (406) 442-4934. I thank you for your continued support of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees (AMRPE).

Sincerely,

Lyle Manley, AMRPE President