

Remarks Made
to the
Finance Special Senate to Review the Investment of State Retirement Funds
March 12, 2015

Good afternoon gentlemen and thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak on Senate Bill 527. I am Wayne Bell, past president of the State Retirees Association. Our President, Don Tudor, asked me to represent our organization today and sends his regrets that he could not be here. In the words of one of your former colleagues, I will be brief.

As an association we try to keep our members informed of any legislative initiatives that may affect our retirement and health insurance benefits. We also try to attend most meetings of the Investment Commission and PEBA. We were probably sitting in this or a similar room ten years ago when the Investment Commission was created.

Over the past year we had several opportunities to interact with the audit team, Funston Advisory Services, and found them to be a highly professional and knowledgeable organization. We have read and shared with our Board and members the findings and recommendations of the audit. It was a thorough audit and well worth the money. From our perspective it provides guidance in fine tuning a benefit system that acts in the sole best interest of the members and the feedback from our members has been overwhelmingly positive.

We therefore strongly support Senate Bill 527 and encourage its passage. To guard against future organizational drift, we applaud the requirement that fiduciary audits be performed periodically. They may be a little expensive but they are well worth it. Hopefully future audits won't require legislative action but even if they don't, I am confident that this or a future subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee will exercise its role of oversight to ensure recommendations don't gather dust.

I wish to conclude my remarks by simply saying thank you. Few people outside this room will ever appreciate just how incredibly difficult and complex your task was but we do. Thank you.

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