



Board of Retirement Regular Meeting

Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

Agenda Item 7

MEETING DATE: April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: State Association of County Retirement Systems
Legislative Update—April 2023

SUBMITTED FOR: Consent Deliberation
 and Action Receive
 and File

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) Legislative Update for April 2023.

PURPOSE

This item complies with the Strategic Management Plan goal of stakeholder communication and outreach by participating in the legislative process to monitor changes in state law affecting public pension plans.

DISCUSSION

The attached report highlights recent legislative activity affecting California public pension plans and is produced by SACRS' legislative advocates at Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith, LLC.

SACRS is composed of the 20 systems operating under the County Employees' Retirement Law. The association's mission is to provide education and analysis to trustees and staff so that they can be more effective stewards of their systems' pension plans.

ATTACHMENTS

- Board Order
- SACRS Legislative Update—April 2023

Prepared by:

/S/

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer



Retirement Board Order

Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

Before the Board of Retirement
April 19, 2023

AGENDA ITEM:

**State Association of County Retirement Systems Legislative Update—
April 2023**

THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT hereby approves Staff's recommendation to receive and file the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) Legislative Update for April 2023.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on April 19, 2023 by the following vote of the Board of Retirement, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ALTERNATES:
(Present but not voting)

Keith DeVore
Board President

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer and
Board Secretary



April 6, 2023

TO: State Association of County Retirement Systems

FROM: Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith, LLC

RE: **Legislative Update – April 2023**

General Update

With the bill introduction deadline behind us, the Legislature now turns to policy committee hearings for the first house. The Legislature will have until April 28 for all fiscal bills to be heard in policy committee. Until this date (aside from Spring Recess from March 30 – April 10), the Legislature will be busy conducting hearings for bills introduced this year.

By this point, most of the “spot” or “intent” bills (placeholder bills without substantive language) have since been amended with substantive language that will allow them to move forward in the legislative process and get a hearing in policy committee.

Non-fiscal bills will have until May 5 to be heard in policy committee.

Legislation of Interest

AB 1020 (Grayson) – CERL Disability Presumptions. This bill would establish several new disability retirement presumptions for various injuries and illnesses in the CERL, similar to provisions that exist in the Labor Code. The bill is sponsored by the California Professional Firefighters.

SB 252 (Gonzalez) – PERS and STRS Fossil Fuel Divestment. Senator Gonzalez reintroduced SB 1173 from last session. Like last year, this bill applies to CalPERS and CalSTRS and prohibits the retirement systems from renewing or making new investments in fossil fuel companies as well as requiring them to liquidate existing investments by July 1, 2030, among other requirements. The bill was introduced as part of a package of climate legislation.

SB 660 (Alvarado-Gil) - CA Public Retirement System Agency Cost and Liability Panel. This bill would establish the CA Public Retirement System Agency Cost and

Liability Panel that would be tasked to determine how costs and unfunded liability are apportioned to a public agency when a member changes employers within the same retirement system or concurrently retires with two or more systems that have entered into a reciprocity agreement. The panel would include a member from the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS).

Public Meeting Bills

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, teleconferencing flexibilities have become a subject of interest in California's Legislature, with local government groups sponsoring various bills on the topic since 2021. This session is no exception, and a handful of bills have been introduced:

AB 557 (Hart) - AB 361 Sunset Extension. This bill would remove the sunset established in AB 361 (R. Rivas) as well as increase the time period when the Board must renew the findings of an emergency or need for social distancing from 30 days to 45 days.

AB 817 (Pacheco) – Open Meeting Flexibility for Subsidiary Bodies. This bill allows subsidiary bodies to use teleconferencing without regard to a state of emergency if they meet certain requirements. Subsidiary bodies are bodies that serve in an advisory capacity and do not take final action on specified items.

AB 1379 (Papan) - Teleconference Flexibilities. AB 1379 expands various flexibilities for local agencies under the Brown Act including, but not limited to, relaxing requirements for posting teleconference locations, relaxing certain quorum requirements, removing the existing January 1, 2026 sunset date of flexibilities in current law, removing restrictions that prohibit members from participating remotely for more than two meetings a year, among other changes. The bill also requires that a legislative body have at least two meetings a year where members are in person at a single designated location.

SB 411 (Portantino) - Teleconferencing for Appointed Bodies. This bill would allow local legislative bodies with appointed members to use teleconferencing indefinitely regardless of the presence of an emergency. The author intends this bill to apply to neighborhood councils. The bill is an urgency bill and therefore requires a 2/3 vote.

SB 537 (Becker) - Teleconference Flexibilities. This bill was recently amended with substantive language that allows multijurisdictional, cross county legislative bodies to use teleconferencing indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency and adds certain requirements, like requiring a legislative body to provide a record of attendance on its website within 7 days of the meeting. The bill also adds to the list of circumstances where a member is permitted to participate remotely. We have met with the author's staff and are preparing some amendments to clarify that local retirement systems are covered by the bill. The bill is an urgency bill and therefore requires a 2/3 vote.