The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 via teleconference. Ms. Ruth Faklis presided as Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call
Present: Ms. Copper, Ms. Faklis, Ms Henry, Mr. Shoop
Absent: Mr. Piechocinski, Ms. Thompson

Also in attendance were staff members Mr. Kosiba, Ms. O’Brien, Mr. DeCleene, Mr. Duquette, and Ms. Shadid. Mr. Jason Anselment of the Illinois Association of Park Districts was also present.

(11-04-01)

The Committee began by discussing the minutes of the February 23, 2011 meeting of the Legislative Committee. Ms. Henry moved to approve the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-02)

The Committee next discussed House Bill 1325, sponsored by Representative Greg Harris, which would authorize Illinois pension funds to set up an alternative defined contribution plan. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Ms. Copper seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-03)

The Committee then reviewed the Board resolutions regarding committee procedures. After discussion, the Committee asked that staff schedule an in-person meeting of the committee to discuss the resolutions.
(11-04-04)
The Committee next discussed House Bill 1977, sponsored by Representative McCarthy, which would, in the provisions applicable to IMRF, exclude travel for Board meetings or required fiduciary or ethics training from the approval requirements of the Pension Code, as long as those expenses are incurred within Illinois. It also makes a change in the Illinois economic opportunity report. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board support the bill. Ms. Henry seconded the motion.

VOTE:  
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-05)
The Committee then discussed House Bill 2037, sponsored by Representative Brady, which would permit elected or appointed coroners to participate in the SLEP program. After discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:  
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-06)
Next, the Committee discussed House Bill 2061, sponsored by Representative Carol Sente, which excludes from the FRE any salary increase greater than 12% over the previous year for new participants after July 1, 2011. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Ms. Henry seconded the motion.

VOTE:  
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-07)
The Committee then discussed House Bill 2958, sponsored by Representative Lisa Dugan, which places certain full-time firefighters and paramedics who are not in a downstate fire fund into IMRF SLEP. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Ms. Copper seconded the motion.

VOTE:  
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop  
NAY: None
Next, the Committee discussed House Bill 2975, sponsored by Representative May, which excludes IMRF and police & fire fund levies from tax caps for the first five years after participation and changes the referendum question for participation in IMRF and downstate police. After discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board support the bill. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-09)

The Committee then discussed House Bill 3075, sponsored by Representative Beiser, which reduces the minimum age for retirement without reduction in Tier Two to age 62 and to age 57 with a reduction. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend the Board remain neutral on the bill. Ms. Henry seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-10)

Next, the Committee discussed House Bill 3076, sponsored by Representative David Harris, which requires IMRF employers, within 3 years, to pay the present value cost of the portion of a pension that results from salary increases of more than 6%. After discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board support the bill. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-11)

The Committee then discussed House Bill 3228, sponsored by Representative Brady, which limits the return to work restrictions for ERI annuitants. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board support this bill. Ms. Copper seconded the motion.
VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-12)
The Committee then discussed House Bill 3370, sponsored by Representative Fortner, which requires IMRF to create an alternative DC plan and allow employers to require their new members to participate. After discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-13)
The Committee next discussed House Bill 3375, sponsored by Representative McCarthy, which requires funds to suspend the annuity of any retiree who begins participation in any other Illinois public pension system. After discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-14)
The Committee then discussed House Bill 3426, sponsored by Representative David Harris, which excludes from the IMRF FRE calculation certain lump sum payments. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. The motion failed for lack of a second. After further discussion, Ms. Henry moved to recommend that the Board remain neutral. The motion failed for lack of a second. Ms. Henry then moved to recommend that the Board support the bill. The motion failed for lack of a second. After further discussion, no position was taken on the bill.

(11-04-15)
Next, the Committee discussed House Bill 3427, sponsored by Representative David Harris, which excludes from pensionable earnings certain lump sum payments and annual increases of more than 6% (applies to all systems). After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Ms. Copper seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-16)
The Committee then returned to House Bill 3426. Mr. Shoop again moved to recommend that the Board oppose the bill. Ms. Copper seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-17)
The Committee then discussed House Bill 3591, sponsored by Representative Mussman, which terminates pension benefits for a member of any fund who is convicted of a job-related felony. After discussion, Mr. Shoop moved to recommend that the Board remain neutral. Ms. Henry seconded the motion.

VOTE:
AYE: Copper, Faklis, Henry, Shoop
NAY: None
ABSENT: Piechocinski, Thompson

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

(11-04-18)
Finally, the Committee discussed a proposal from staff for emergency measures when legislation is introduced to change the Board’s investment authority or 100% funding goal. After discussion, the Committee asked staff to draft a proposed resolution and present it at the next meeting of the Legislative Committee.

(11-04-19)
The committee adjourned at 10:40 a.m.