The Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, February, 2021 via video conference. Ms. Stanish presided as Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Copper, Kosiba, Mitchell, Stanish
Absent: None

Also in attendance were staff members Collins, Enright, Janicki Clark, McGrath, and Shadid.

(21-01-01)

The Committee began by reviewing the minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting of the Legislative Committee. Ms. Copper moved to approve the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Kosiba seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Kosiba, Mitchell, Stanish
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

(21-01-02)

The Committee next reviewed House Bill 45, sponsored by Rep. Katie Stuart, which, in the provision applicable to IMRF, would change a reference to “alderman” to “alderperson” in the section defining “employee.” The bill would also make changes throughout the statutes (not limited to the Pension Code) to change references to “alderman” and “congressman” to “alderperson” and “congressperson,” respectively. After discussion, Mr. Kosiba moved to recommend that the Board remain neutral on the bill. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Kosiba, Mitchell, Stanish
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None

By a vote of 4-0-0, the motion passed.
The Committee then discussed House Bill 447, sponsored by Rep. Curtis Tarver. This bill would require pensions to be terminated if a SLEP member is convicted of a “disqualifying offense,” even if it is not job-related. Equivalent provisions are also added for the forfeiture of spousal benefits if the spouse commits a disqualifying offense. “Disqualifying offenses” are defined in the statute and examples include first and second degree murder, indecent solicitation of a child, and aggravated kidnapping. It applies to new members only and also applies to public safety participants in the downstate and Chicago police funds, as well as the Chicago Municipal and Cook County funds, SERS, and SURS. After discussion, Ms. Copper moved to table discussion of the bill to the option of the Committee or until an amendment is introduced or the bill begins to move in the General Assembly. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Kosiba, Mitchell, Stanish
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

Finally, the Committee review House Bill 1735, sponsored by Rep. Maurice West. The bill would, in the portion applicable to IMRF, remove reference to the county coroner as an official able to participate in the Elected County Official (ECO) plan. The main part of the bill would replace the elected office of county coroner with a county medical examiner, who would be appointed by the county board. After discussion, Ms. Copper moved to recommend that the Board remain neutral on the bill. Mr. Kosiba seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYE: Copper, Kosiba, Mitchell, Stanish
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

The committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:27 a.m.