

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 D. Wonda Johnson

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION TO  
12 CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY REPRESENTATION ON THE PUBLIC  
13 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION RETIREMENT BOARD.

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15 WHEREAS, the public employees retirement association is a  
16 cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined-benefit pension plan  
17 that covers approximately fifty-six thousand nine hundred  
18 active members and forty-one thousand two hundred retirees; and

19 WHEREAS, the public employees retirement association is  
20 governed by a twelve-member board of trustees, or retirement  
21 board, that is composed of:

22 A. four active members under a state coverage plan  
23 elected by state members;

24 B. three active members under a municipal coverage  
25 plan elected by municipal members;

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1 C. one active municipal member employed by a county  
2 elected by municipal members;

3 D. two retired members elected by public employees  
4 retirement association retirees;

5 E. the secretary of state, an ex-officio member;  
6 and

7 F. the state treasurer, an ex-officio member; and

8 WHEREAS, the composition of the retirement board has  
9 changed numerous times since the public employees retirement  
10 association was established on March 20, 1947; and

11 WHEREAS, over time, as the retirement plan has matured,  
12 the number of active members has declined and the number of  
13 retirees has increased; and

14 WHEREAS, this shift is not reflected in the representation  
15 of retirement board members and the employee groups they  
16 represent; and

17 WHEREAS, specifically, there are two board members to  
18 represent more than forty-one thousand retirees while eight  
19 board members represent approximately fifty-seven thousand  
20 general members, including state police officers and  
21 correctional officers; and

22 WHEREAS, this imbalance of representation is unfair and is  
23 a disadvantage to the weight given to retiree issues; and

24 WHEREAS, during the 2019 legislative session, the public  
25 employees retirement association is proposing suspensions of

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1 the cost-of-living adjustment for retirees and an extension of  
2 when members will first be eligible for the receipt of a cost-  
3 of-living adjustment; and

4 WHEREAS, legislation is also proposed tying the cost-of-  
5 living adjustment to the public employees retirement  
6 association's funding status and a percentage of the consumer  
7 price index; and

8 WHEREAS, other options to enhance the public employees  
9 retirement association's solvency have not been explored, and  
10 meaningful input from public employee retirement association  
11 members and retirees has not been solicited; and

12 WHEREAS, the retired public employees of New Mexico is an  
13 independent group formed in 1962 to give a voice to all retired  
14 public employees; and

15 WHEREAS, the retired public employees of New Mexico  
16 desires to open a dialogue with representatives of the public  
17 employees retirement association, union representatives and  
18 other relevant stakeholders to discuss issues that affect  
19 retirees; and

20 WHEREAS, the retired public employees of New Mexico is  
21 requesting open communication, transparency and cooperation  
22 with the retirement board members and executive staff regarding  
23 proposed changes to the retirement plan that affect retirees;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public employees retirement

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1 association be requested to convene and administratively  
2 support a task force to study representation on the public  
3 employees retirement association retirement board; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
5 representatives of the following:

6 A. the public employees retirement association  
7 retirement board and executive staff;

8 B. retired public employees of New Mexico;

9 C. the American federation of state, county and  
10 municipal employees, council eighteen;

11 D. the Albuquerque police officers association;

12 E. the New Mexico state police association; and

13 F. the New Mexico professional firefighters  
14 association; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
16 create a process to implement listening sessions statewide to  
17 gather input from retirees and other key stakeholders; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public employees  
19 retirement association be requested to provide a report of the  
20 task force's findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
21 legislative interim committee by October 1, 2019; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the executive director of the public employees  
24 retirement association, the president of retired public  
25 employees of New Mexico and representatives of the American

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2 eighteen; the Albuquerque police officers association; the New  
3 Mexico state police association; and the New Mexico  
4 professional firefighters association.

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