

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5168

As Reported by House Committee On:
Appropriations

Title: An act relating to the appointment, removal, and salary of the state actuary.

Brief Description: Concerning the appointment, removal, and salary of the state actuary.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson and Nobles).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill
(As Amended by Committee)

- Eliminates the State Actuary Appointment Committee and moves its duties to the Pension Funding Council.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 30 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Gregerson, Vice Chair; Macri, Vice Chair; Couture, Ranking Minority Member; Connors, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Penner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Schmick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berg, Bergquist, Burnett, Caldier, Callan, Corry, Cortes, Doglio, Dye, Fitzgibbon, Keaton, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Manjarrez, Marshall, Pollet, Rude, Ryu, Springer, Stonier, Street, Thai and Tharinger.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The State Actuary Appointment Committee. The State Actuary Appointment Committee (SAAC) was created in 2003 as part of legislation that created the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP). Prior to 2003 the Joint Committee on Pension Policy (JCPP) was responsible for studying pension issues, developing policies, and making recommendations to the Legislature regarding the state's retirement systems. The JCPP also appointed and removed the State Actuary by a two-thirds majority vote and set the State Actuary's salary with a simple majority vote. When the JCPP was eliminated, the SAAC was created with the sole duty of appointment, removal, and salary setting for the State Actuary.

The SAAC is made up of eight members; the chair and ranking minority members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, the chair and ranking minority members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and four members of the SCPP appointed jointly by the chair and vice chair of the SCPP.

Pension Funding Council. The Pension Funding Council (PFC) was created in 1998 to adopt the long-term economic assumptions and employer contribution rates for most of the state's retirement systems. The PFC consists of six voting members; the chair and ranking minority members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, and the directors of the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Retirement Services. The PFC meets at least once each year, in even-numbered years to adopt employer contribution rates and in odd-numbered years to adopt the long-term economic assumptions.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The SAAC is eliminated and the appointment, removal, and the salary setting for the State Actuary is moved to the PFC. Action by the PFC to appoint, remove, and set the salary of the State Actuary requires an affirmative vote of at least four members.

Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:

The Appropriations committee amended the bill and removed the requirement that the Select Committee on Pension Policy make recommendations to the PFC related to the appointment, removal, and salary of the State Actuary.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.