



Executive Departments and Administration Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building Rm 306
Concord, NH 03301

January 9, 2019

Re: HB 110-FN-A: An act relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system.

Dear Chairman Goley and Committee Members,

As the partners of the New Hampshire Retirement Security Coalition who together represent nearly 78,000 active and retired public employees in New Hampshire, we submit this written testimony in support of HB 110-FN-A. The mission of the Coalition is to focus solely on protecting the structure and solvency of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). To that end, we support House Bill 110-FN-A because it will require the legislature to reimburse the system for “any actuarial and professional assessment of proposed legislation required by RSA 14:44,” and therefore protect the assets of the system for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to the members of the system.

Each year, various bills are submitted regarding the retirement system. Each bill requires a fiscal note worksheet from NHRS to determine and outline the fiscal impact such legislation will make on the system.

For the years 2012-2018, the total amount of assets used to pay for the analysis of proposed bills with regard to the retirement system has totaled \$366,200.

Two years ago, an identical bill, House Bill 294-FN, was submitted and passed the full House, the Senate ED&A Committee, and a Senate floor vote. Unfortunately, when it reached the Senate Finance Committee on its second reading, it was recommended Inexpedient to Legislate 3-3 and subsequently killed on the Senate floor.

Article 36-a of the New Hampshire Constitution prescribes that NHRS funds are to be used for the “exclusive purpose of providing for such (retirement and related benefits) and shall not be encumbered for, or diverted to, any other purposes.” This legislation to cover the cost of actuarial analyses of future legislation – and end the syphoning of funds to further agendas which may result in curtailing those benefits prescribed exclusively for participating employees – is necessary to further the Constitutional purpose of the New Hampshire Retirement System. By passing this legislation, the General Court will keep NHRS assets – composed of employee payroll deductions,

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employer match rates and investment returns – protected for the purpose of providing modest retirement benefits to those retirees who dedicated their lives and careers to serving this great state and its cities and towns.

Therefore, we urge the committee to recommend HB 110-FN-A Ought to Pass to the full House.

Sincerely,

Steve Lyons, NH & VT Coordinator

American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Council 93

Douglas Ley, President

American Federation of Teachers – New Hampshire

Megan Tuttle, President

National Education Association - New Hampshire

Stephen J. Arnold, Sr., NH State Director

New England Police Benevolent Association

Sandy Amlaw, President

New Hampshire Retired Educators Association

Carl Ladd, Executive Director

New Hampshire School Administrators Association

Steve Soule, Business Manager

New Hampshire Higher Education Union – a division of IBEW Local 2320

Marc G. Beaudoin, President

New Hampshire Troopers Association

William McQuillen, President

Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire

Rich Gulla, President

State Employees Association of New Hampshire - SEIU Local 1984

Dennis Caza, President

Teamsters Local 633