



MRTA
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
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MRTA “Day at the Capitol” February 15, 2017

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PRIORITY - MRTA opposes SB 228 (Koenig R-15). Establishes a hybrid retirement plan and requires all new members of the plan to participate in the Defined Contribution Plan (DC) for MOSERS, state employees and elected officials. This does not include educators at this time. It is only one amendment away if this bill is not stopped.

PRIORITY - MRTA supports HB 304 (Pike R-126). This legislation is an MRTA priority and allows pension benefits to “POP UP” after a divorce with the ruling on assets by a court. The bill also allows an extension from 90 days to one year for a retiree to add a beneficiary if remarries.

PRIORITY - MRTA supports HB 305 (Pike R-126). This legislation is an MRTA priority that closes the “Kelly Services” loophole requiring every retiree and school district statewide to follow the 550 hour Work After Retirement (WAR) law.

PRIORITY – MRTA supports HB 650 (Cookson R-153). This legislation mandates a 2% COLA for PSRS/PEERS retirees if the CPI is between 0% and 5%. The PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees have reduced the COLA by policy twice in the past 5 years to the lowest possible rate allowed by law. This must change.

PRIORITY – MRTA supports HB 755 (Cookson R-153). This legislation allows for the salaries of PSRS-PEERS employees to be public record. Currently PSRS PEERS is the only system in Missouri where they are not public record.

PRIORITY - MRTA opposes SB 32 (Emery R-31). This is a voucher scheme allowing special needs and foster children a voucher tax credit. This legislation could take \$25 million from public schools.

PRIORITY – MRTA opposes HB 634 (Roeber R-34). This legislation allows charter schools in any school district in the state.

PRIORITY – MRTA opposes HB 619 (Dogan R-98). This legislation changes and lowers the retirement benefits of active Saint Louis City educators at the same time raising their contributions to the system. This would set an extremely bad precedent for all Defined Benefit Plans in Missouri in that the promise when you were hired could be broken.

PRIORITY – MRTA supports Legislation to allow a COLA for Saint Louis City and Kansas City retirees. The **Saint Louis City retirees who have not had a COLA for 10 years.** This is an issue of fairness in the fact that PSRS/PEERS retirees have an automatic COLA written into Missouri Law. Saint Louis City retirees have lost approximately 20% of their buying power in the last 9 years.

PRIORITY - MRTA supports full funding of the Foundation Formula and opposes the use of public tax dollars for private schools. The Missouri Constitution mandates adequate funding of K-12 education through HB 2 which requires education funding as the second priority of state expenditures. The Public School Foundation Formula is currently underfunded by at least \$50 million dollars. This is particularly troublesome for rural schools and inner city schools because a high percentage of their funding comes from the state.

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