

By: Menendez

H.B. No. 1344

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an advisory committee to assist the board of trustees of the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 855, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 855.117 to read as follows:

Sec. 855.117. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The board of trustees shall establish an advisory committee to:

(1) provide input to the board on matters relating to the retirement system;

(2) facilitate communication between the retirement system and its members, retirees, beneficiaries, and participating municipalities; and

(3) allow stakeholders, municipal officials and policy makers, and employee organizations to share their input and perspective on issues under review by the board.

(b) The advisory committee consists of:

(1) a trustee of the board of trustees appointed by the board who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member and presiding officer of the advisory committee; and

(2) individual class members and group class members appointed in accordance with this section.

(c) The board of trustees shall appoint nine individual class members to serve staggered three-year terms so that three

1 individual class members' terms expire at the end of each calendar
2 year. An individual class member may not serve more than two terms.
3 The board shall fill the position of an individual class member:

4 (1) at the December meeting of the board of trustees
5 that occurs immediately before the date on which a member's term is
6 due to expire; and

7 (2) in the event of a vacancy, at the next regularly
8 scheduled meeting of the board.

9 (d) Individual class members must be highly qualified and
10 diverse, as determined by the board of trustees, and their
11 membership must fairly represent different geographic regions of
12 the state, differently sized municipalities, different employment
13 and professional backgrounds, and the diverse workplaces of
14 participating municipalities. To serve as an individual class
15 member, a person must be:

16 (1) a member of the retirement system;

17 (2) a retiree of a participating municipality;

18 (3) an elected official of a participating
19 municipality;

20 (4) a former trustee of the board of trustees; or

21 (5) a qualified individual, as determined by the
22 board, with knowledge of the funding and operation of public
23 retirement systems.

24 (e) An individual class member serves at the will of the
25 board of trustees.

26 (f) Group class membership may only be composed of one
27 representative and one alternate representative from each of the

1 following organizations:

2 (1) the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of
3 Texas;

4 (2) the Texas Municipal Police Association;

5 (3) the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters;

6 (4) the Service Employees International Union;

7 (5) the Texas Municipal League;

8 (6) the Government Finance Officers Association of
9 Texas;

10 (7) the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association;

11 and

12 (8) any other organization designated by the board of
13 trustees.

14 (g) An alternate representative shall attend an advisory
15 committee meeting, including a joint meeting with the board of
16 trustees, if the representative of an organization is unable to
17 attend.

18 (h) Each organization listed in Subsection (f) may, at the
19 organization's sole discretion, nominate the representative and
20 the alternate to serve as a group class member of the advisory
21 committee. Each organization shall communicate the organization's
22 nomination to the board of trustees in writing. The board shall
23 appoint the nominee to the advisory committee at the next scheduled
24 meeting of the board after the nomination is received by the board.
25 If a member of the group class resigns, is removed, or becomes
26 unable to serve on the advisory committee, the organization may
27 nominate another person to that position in writing to the board and

1 the board shall appoint the nominee to the advisory committee at the
2 board's next scheduled meeting.

3 (i) A group class member may be removed by the board of
4 trustees for cause or at the will of the organization that nominated
5 the member.

6 (j) The advisory committee shall meet quarterly or at the
7 call of the presiding officer. All meetings shall take place at the
8 offices of the retirement system or at a place specified by the
9 presiding officer. The presiding officer shall determine the
10 agenda for a meeting in advance of the meeting.

11 (k) A quorum of the advisory committee is a majority of all
12 of the members attending a meeting, excluding alternates not
13 attending on behalf of a representative. A majority vote of a
14 quorum of the advisory committee is required for action by the
15 advisory committee. Each member of the individual class and each
16 representative of an organization in the group class is entitled to
17 one vote.

18 (l) A member of the advisory committee is not entitled to
19 reimbursement of expenses or compensation for service on the
20 committee.

21 (m) The advisory committee shall:

22 (1) participate in an annual joint meeting with the
23 board of trustees to receive from the board a presentation of the
24 retirement system's most recent actuarial valuation;

25 (2) review and provide input to the board regarding
26 potential legislative changes affecting the retirement system;

27 (3) provide input to the board regarding issues

1 affecting the retirement system's participating municipalities,
2 members, retirees, and beneficiaries; and

3 (4) maintain communication with statewide
4 professional organizations, including employer and employee
5 groups.

6 (n) The advisory committee shall report on its activities to
7 the board of trustees at meetings with and special presentations
8 before the board, which shall be scheduled as needed.

9 (o) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory committee.

10 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2010, the board of
11 trustees of the Texas Municipal Retirement System shall establish
12 the advisory committee required by Section 855.117, Government
13 Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.