



April 11, 2012

LEGISLATURE'S PENSION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE ISSUES UNIQUE TO 1937 ACT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

This Friday, a legislative conference committee, formed last year for the purpose of crafting comprehensive pension reform legislation, will hold its fifth hearing and examine issues unique to 1937 Act retirement systems, including pension spiking and the effects of the [Ventura decision](#). The committee will also discuss pension benefits for elected officials.

Previous meetings of the Conference Committee on Public Employee Pensions have included an overview of the current condition of public employee retirement benefits and reform efforts that have been achieved through local bargaining, as well as detailed discussions about Governor Brown's [12-Point Pension Reform Plan](#) released last October, the viability of hybrid pension plan options, and the impacts of increasing normal retirement ages for public employees.

On Friday I will represent counties on the panel discussing pension benefits for elected officials. Consistent with CSAC's Guiding Principles for Pension Reform, my comments will focus on the main goals of ensuring fiscal sustainability and avoiding a reduction in vital county services, improving counties' ability to recruit and retain the best talent, and eliminating abuse within the pension system.

It is unknown when the committee will release its draft report but we expect the Legislature to take action prior to the end of this year's legislative session. CSAC staff and representatives from the County Administrative Officers Association have met with conference committee staff and the Governor's office to propose additional reforms that are important to counties - namely removing statutory barriers that prevent counties from negotiating cost-sharing agreements and new pension tiers without authorizing legislation. We will continue to work with the Legislature and Governor to achieve public employee pension reform that is financially sound and addresses the needs of counties.

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