

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2025 – FINAL



TRUSTEE AND STAFF ATTENDANCE

Teleconference	Dennis Lawson, Chair – Central Pierce Fire & Rescue (Retired)
Teleconference	Jason Granneman, Vice Chair – Clark County Sheriff's Office
Teleconference	Mark Johnston – Vancouver Fire Department (Retired)
Teleconference	AJ Johnson – Snohomish County Fire District #1
Teleconference	Senator Jeff Holy – WA State Senator
Teleconference	Tarina Rose-Watson – Spokane International Airport Police Department
Teleconference	Wolf Opitz – Pierce County
Teleconference	Pat McElligott – East Pierce County Fire & Rescue
Absent	Representative Steve Bergquist – WA State Representative
Absent	Darell Stidham – Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Retired)
Absent	Jay Burney – City of Olympia
In Attendance	Steve Nelsen – Executive Director
In Attendance	Tim Valencia – Deputy Director
In Attendance	Chloe Drawsby – Executive Assistant
In Attendance	Jessie Jackson – Administrative Services Manager
Teleconference	Tammy Sadler – Lead Benefits Ombudsman
In Attendance	Jacob White – Senior Research and Policy Manager
Teleconference	Jessica Burkhart – Benefits Ombudsman
Teleconference	Karen Durant – Senior Research and Policy Manager
Teleconference	Tor Jernudd – Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

The LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board met in the Washington State Investment Board conference room in Olympia, Washington on January 22, 2025. A quorum of the members was present at this meeting.

Chair Dennis Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and requested those present to take a moment of silence to honor those who had fallen since the last the Board meeting.

1. Legislative Update

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager gave a legislative update to the Board. This update included information on board endorsed bills, board sponsored bills, and bills of interest.

Board endorsed bills:

HB 1349 | SB 5306 – Concerning the purchase of pension service credit for authorized leaves of absence. This bill will be heard in House Appropriations on January 23, 2025, at 4 p.m. The bill will also be heard in the Senate Ways and Means on January 23, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Board supported bills:

SB 5114 | HB 1312 – Paying state retirement benefits until the end of the month in which the retiree of beneficiary dies also known as the 'Month of Death' bill. The house bill has been scheduled for a hearing in House Appropriations on January 23rd at 4 p.m. The senate companion bill is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Ways and Means on January 23rd at 4 p.m.

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Bills of interest:

HB 1198 | SB 5167 – Governor Inslee’s proposed budget had a hearing in House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means earlier this week. As of today, a bill to implement Governor Inslee’s proposed merger of LEOFF 1 and LEOFF 2 has not dropped.

SB 5085 – Closed Retirement Plans. This bill does not impact LEOFF 2. It merges TRS 1, PERS 1, and LEOFF 1, and creates an ongoing CPI based, maximum of 3%, COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1. It has been scheduled for a hearing in Senate Ways and Means on January 23rd at 4 p.m.

No action was taken by the Board at today’s meeting.

2. Administrative Update

Steve Nelsen, Executive Director updated the Board on agency updates and upcoming stakeholder outreach. Mr. Nelsen confirmed that the building lease for LEOFF staff has been finalized for the next 5 years. Mr. Nelsen stated that a LEOFF 2 newsletters will be going out over the course of next year. An update on the Governor’s budget was given to the Board.

Mr. Nelsen listed a few upcoming stakeholder outreach events including The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) Kelly L. Fox Legislative Conference which will be held on February 4-5, 2025, at the Capitol Event Center. Mr. Nelsen also announced that the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS) would be holding their annual Winter Membership Meeting from February 19-21, 2025. Director Nelsen and Senior Research and Policy Manager, Jacob White are expected to present at both stakeholder events.

No action was taken at today’s meeting.

3. Public Comment

The LEOFF 2 Board welcomes public comment in advance of all meetings and has posted instructions on its website for the submission of written comments. There was no public comment to report to the Board at today’s meeting.

No action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

The next meeting of the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board is scheduled for February 26, 2025, at the Washington State Investment Board located at 2100 Evergreen Park Drive S.W. Olympia, WA 98502.