

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 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)
Absent	AJ Johnson – Snohomish County Fire District #1
Absent	Senator Jeff Holy – WA State Senator
Absent	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
Teleconference	Darell Stidham – Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Retired)
Teleconference	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 February 26, 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 Board meeting.

1. Legislative Update

Jacob White, Senior Research and Policy Manager, presented the Board with a legislative update including endorsed bills, board supported bills, and bills of interest.

Board Supported Bills:

HB 1349 / SB 5306 – Concerning the purchase of pension service credit for authorized leaves of absence. The House bill passed out of the House and was referred to Senate Ways and Means. The Senate bill passed out of the Senate and was referred to House Appropriations.

Board Supported Bills:

HB 1312/SB 5114 – Months of Death Benefits –Neither bill has been scheduled for executive session today, so it appears that these bills will not advance this session.

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Bills of Interest:

HB 1270 – Deferred Compensation Program auto enroll for local employers. This DRS requested bill passed out of the House and has been referred to Senate Ways and Means.

SB 5085 – Concerning three of Washington state’s closed retirement plans. This bill passed out of Senate Ways and Means and has not yet been pulled to the senate floor.

HB 1571 – Removing qualifiers related to the presumption of occupational disease for heart problems.

HB 1198 / SB 5167 – 2025-2027 Operating Budget

Z-0174.4 – LEOFF 1/ LEOFF 2 Merger - The OFM request merger legislation has not been introduced into the House or Senate yet. A high level summary and a link to the z-draft of the bill are available on our website: [2025 | LEOFF - Plan 2 Retirement Board](https://www.leoff.wa.gov/2025-LEOFF-Plan-2-Retirement-Board).

2. Admin Update

Steve Nelsen, Executive Director, provided the Board with an administrative update. This update included a response to the 6% budget reductions. Mr. Nelsen also informed the Board of a newsletter coming out after the legislative session ends.

Director Nelsen talked about upcoming stakeholder outreach events including Seattle Fire Local 27 Financial Wellness Seminar on April 17, 2025, and the Washington State Council of Firefighters (WSCFF) annual Educational Seminar from April 22-24, 2025.

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. The Board received constituent comment from Renne Maher-Zieger regarding surviving spouse medical insurance. Board members were provided with a copy before the start of the meeting.

This public comment will be readdressed and discussed during the upcoming interim.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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