
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4431

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Spanel, Hine, Silver, Locke, McLean, Paris and Rayburn

Read first time 03/04/92. Referred to Committee on RULES REVIEW.

1 WHEREAS, The Teachers' Retirement System, Plan I, and the Public
2 Employees' Retirement System, Plan I, allow members to retire at ages
3 younger than 65 after completing a certain number of years of public
4 service; and

5 WHEREAS, Persons who retire in their 50's may receive benefits for
6 over thirty years, and inflation can greatly reduce the purchasing
7 power of the initial benefit over that length of time; and

8 WHEREAS, Persons who retire under the Teachers' Retirement System,
9 Plan I, or the Public Employees' Retirement System, Plan I, are not
10 eligible for postretirement cost of living adjustments until the
11 purchasing power of their benefit has declined to 60 percent of the
12 purchasing power of the benefit received at the age of 65, even if they
13 retired in their 50's; and

14 WHEREAS, Securing adequate health insurance coverage is one of the
15 most significant concerns for persons of any age, but it is a

1 particular concern for retirees who have a higher need for health care
2 services; and

3 WHEREAS, For a number of years, the cost of health insurance has
4 been rising at more than double the rate of increase of the cost of
5 other goods and services; and

6 WHEREAS, Federal income and medical assistance through Social
7 Security and Medicare does not occur until retirees are 65 or older;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The purchasing power of state-provided retirement benefits
10 and the availability of affordable and adequate health insurance
11 coverage are inseparable issues;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
13 the State of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a Task Force on
14 Postretirement Issues is created to study and evaluate the availability
15 of and alternatives for supplementation of basic retirement benefits,
16 including health benefits, through federal, state, employer, and
17 individual resources; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force comprise six members of
19 the House of Representatives and six members of the Senate, with two
20 members from each of the four caucuses who serve on the Appropriations
21 Committee of the House of Representatives or the Ways and Means
22 Committee of the Senate, and one member from each of the four caucuses
23 who serves on both the Joint Committee on Pension Policy and the
24 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives or the Ways
25 and Means Committee of the Senate; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chair of the Task Force be elected
27 by the members of the Task Force; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Appropriations Committee of the
29 House of Representatives, the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate,

1 and the Joint Committee on Pension Policy provide staff support for the
2 Task Force; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force make its report and
4 recommendations to the Legislature by January 31, 1993.