



STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

Heath R. VanNatter
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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June 24, 2022

Members, Legislative Council Personnel Subcommittee
Speaker Todd Huston, Chair
President Pro Tempore Rodrick Bray, Vice Chair
Leader Phil GiaQuinta, Member
Leader Greg Taylor, Member
transmitted via email to Chiefs of Staff

Dear Speaker Huston, Sen. Bray, Rep. GiaQuinta, and Sen. Taylor:

Per the policy approved by Legislative Council Resolution 22-06 Sec. 2(a), we, the undersigned, urge the Personnel Subcommittee of the Legislative Council to permit the Interim Study Committee on Pension Management Oversight (PMOC) to consider a proposal to create a Public Defenders' Retirement Fund (PDRF).

The attached letter (signed by Reps. Heaton, Carbaugh, Harris, and Thompson as well as Sens. Boots and Rogers) explains the importance of the issue from a policy perspective.

It is also important to note that this issue is currently being evaluated by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS). Data has been collected from potential participants in the new fund by INPRS, and it would be very helpful if those findings could be provided to PMOC.

Because these issues typically require a PMOC endorsement prior to legislative action, we believe this issue is now ripe for consideration by PMOC. Our support of assigning this issue to PMOC does NOT indicate a general endorsement of the proposal. We simply believe it is highly appropriate for PMOC to study the issue this interim, receive input from INPRS & stakeholders, and consider the proposal.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rep. Heath VanNatter
Chair, House Labor & Employment Comm.

Rep. Ryan Hatfield
Ranking Minority Member

Sen. Phillip Boots
Chair, Senate Employment, Labor, & Pensions Comm.

Sen. David Niezgodski
Ranking Minority Member

I approve.
JLB
08/30/22



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Bob Heaton
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Phone: 317-232-9816

COMMITTEES
Financial Institutions and Insurance
Ways and Means

April 11, 2022

Speaker Todd Huston
Indiana House of Representatives
200 W. Washington Street, Rm. 3-7
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Speaker Huston,

We write to urge the Legislative Council to assign the topic of creating an Indiana Public Defenders' Retirement Fund to the appropriate interim study committee. In parity to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Retirement Fund (PARF), the goal of the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund (PDRF) is to provide benefits to those eligible public defenders, funded by their contributions, and entice individuals to serve as public defenders.

As stated, the prosecuting attorneys already have an applicable retirement fund for their members. However, Indiana public defenders do not enjoy this same benefit. Upon the end of their service, public defenders receive a significantly smaller pension than that of their prosecuting counterpart. Currently, if structured similar to PARF, the PDRF would begin with approximately 40 active individuals. In comparison, PARF has 205 active members, 169 benefit recipients, 101 inactive vested members, and 142 inactive non-vested members in FY 2020. In FY 2021, PARF was appropriated \$4.4M. The Public Defender Retirement Fund would not require such a large appropriation to establish and would not be of the same caliber for membership.

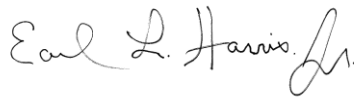
In order to fully understand the requirements to establish the PDRF, the fiscal impact and appropriation needed, and the effect it could have on public defender retention, we urge you to assign the study of the PDRF to the appropriate interim study committee. The establishment of PDRF would reduce pay inequity between Chief Public Defenders and their prosecutor counterparts, while further incentivizing the Indiana Public Defender system to attract and retain experienced and competent attorneys, and combat the declining public defender pool within Indiana.

Sincerely,

Bob Heaton
State Representative
House District 46

Phillip Boots
State Senator
Senate District 23

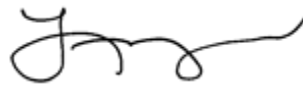
Martin Carbaugh
State Representative
House District 81



Earl Harris
State Representative
House District 2



Ryan Hatfield
State Representative
House District 77



Linda Rogers
State Senator
Senate District 11



Jeffrey Thompson
State Representative
House District 28



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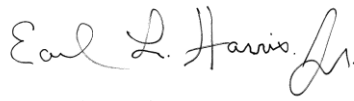
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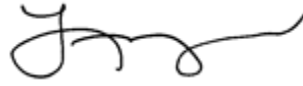
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