

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Victoria Chávez 646-241-5335
Amanda KinKaid 505-363-7417

**Rep. Stewart's Bill to Allow PERA Retirees with Part-time Jobs to Receive Pension
Has Full Support of HLHRC**

Santa Fe, NM – A bill sponsored by Rep. Mimi Stewart (D-Albuquerque) that would allow PERA retirees to return to part-time work while still drawing a pension unanimously passed the House Labor and Human Resources Committee today. Under HB 57, a PERA retiree could earn up to \$15,000 per year without having their pension benefits suspended. The bill is supported by the Public Employee Retirees Association and the Federation of Teachers.

Rep. Stewart said, “This bill truly addresses part-time workers. It’s especially important in rural areas where jobs are available but the people aren’t. Full-time return-to-work retirees would still have to suspend their benefits to prevent double-dipping. There is no actuarial impact on the PERA fund and it doesn’t single out any specific employee group.”

The proposed legislation amends the Public Employees Act to place a \$15,000 earning limit on public employees returning to work while still receiving their pension benefits. It would require all retirees who return to work with PERA affiliates to have the pension benefit suspended on the first day of the month following the month in which their earning from subsequent employment exceeds \$15,000. It would allow the retired member to suspend his or her pension in order to earn additional service credit and then have their pension adjusted and recalculated.

House Bill 57 heads to the House Health and Government Affairs Committee for consideration.