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www.wslea.org

March 6, 2012

Dear Senator Rodney Tom,

Re: Senate Bill 6563 and companion bill House Bill 2350

Since 1968, the Washington State Law Enforcement Association (WSLEA) has been providing leadership to law enforcement officers. WSLEA is an association of law enforcement officers, corrections and public employees that work cooperatively with all segments of the criminal justice community.

WSLEA is not supporting the proposed merger of the LEOFF 1 and 2 pension plans and is supporting defeat of SB 6563 and HB 2350 for several reasons, including:

1. A legal analysis performed by two attorneys, one being former State Supreme Court Chief Justice Phil Talmadge, points out several legal issues that will have to be litigated if the bills pass.
2. The Attorney General's office did not vet this bill and proclaim it legal. The AG stated there could be no analysis absent an actual bill to look at and there was none at the time.
3. Ice Miller, a tax attorney firm, also points out that no legal analysis was performed and only tax issues were reviewed.
4. There is no guaranteed equal representation of LEOFF I on the proposed new Board.
5. The bills provide for a non-elected board to determine the employer and state's contribution rate, funding policy and pension benefits, with no Legislative oversight.

Terminate the bills. Do not spend valuable Legislative time and money on bills that will no doubt be litigated to obtain the same result.

Thank you,

Pete Sirois

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Chairman of the Board, Washington State Law Enforcement Association