

### **Purpose**

MPERS is created by state law, which determines the benefits it administers and sets forth fiduciary standards. State law also impacts MPERS' governance and investment parameters. As such, the Board has a genuine interest in monitoring legislation, within and outside the state of Missouri, which might impact the System. Federal laws impact MPERS' benefits, tax status, and the financial markets in which it operates, thus, it is also important to maintain an awareness of legislative developments at the federal level that may impact public retirement systems. The Board is in the best position to identify necessary changes to laws to protect the interests of the members and the System. Therefore it is essential that MPERS be effective in interacting with the administration and the legislature.

### **Role of Trustees**

The Board will support, oppose, or remain neutral on legislation by majority vote and in accordance with applicable statutes. At times, the Board may find it appropriate to communicate its position on legislation to outside parties, which will be done in compliance with the Board's Communication Policy. In circumstances when it is deemed in the best interest of MPERS, the Board may propose legislation. The Board will maintain an awareness of political and legislative developments that could impact MPERS. The Board may budget resources to allow the Executive Director to retain the services of a governmental consultant for assistance interacting with members of the legislature and the administration.

### **Role of Staff**

The Executive Director will inform the Board of developments in the legislature or administration, as well as policies and issues under consideration in other states or at the federal level, of interest to, or impacting MPERS. The Executive Director may assign or call upon staff or governmental consultants for assistance in these matters.

The Executive Director will ensure that MPERS provides timely responses to all requests for information or technical assistance from the administration or legislature, including fiscal notes. The Executive Director or designee may interact directly with the administration, the legislature, individual legislators, and other public retirement systems regarding matters affecting or potentially affecting MPERS. The Executive Director or designee and the governmental consultant may meet with members of the administration or the legislature or testify in legislative proceedings. The Executive Director will study legislative issues, make recommendations for proposed legislation, and assist the Board in developing MPERS' legislative strategy.

### **Information and Position Statements**

Technical Assistance and Advice: Unbiased analysis and drafting assistance will also be provided on proposed legislation to reduce potential implementation burdens, avoid conflicts of law, and prevent conflicting policy implications. The Executive Director may provide information and facts, but will indicate when the Board has not yet taken a position on an issue. The Executive Director will brief the Board regarding technical assistance, advice, and informational testimony provided to the administration or legislature, and other significant interaction with the administration or legislature.

Development of Legislative Proposals and Opposition or Support: The Board will determine whether MPERS will submit legislative proposals to the administration or legislature and whether MPERS will oppose or support particular legislation. The Executive Director, a designee, or a governmental consultant shall represent the position of MPERS as determined by the Board to the administration and to the legislature and may testify in opposition or in support of legislation as determined by the Board. If exigent circumstances require response in opposition to or in support of a legislative proposal

prior to the Board's consideration of the matter, the Executive Director shall consult with the Board Chair and the Vice Chair prior to responding for MPERS. At such times, the Executive Director will notify the members of the Board via email within 24 hours of the circumstances and of the response. In the event the position represented by the Executive Director and authorized by the Board's officers requires clarification or change, the Board will address the matter in a special meeting or at its next regular meeting.