

**KANSAS
ASSOCIATION**



**OF
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Testimony before the
House Pensions, and Benefits Committee
on
SB 259

by
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Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on **SB 259**, which simply moves back the current sunset date of 2012 to 2015 of the current working after retirement legislation. We appear as a proponent. Although we have no specific policies that address the issue, it was discussed with our Board of Directors. It determined the current situation is appropriate to meet the needs of our members and want to see it continued.

We also have heard from a number of our members about the positive impact of the current opportunity. Even though many school districts have laid off staff the last several years due to budget cuts, the simple fact remains there are still areas of teacher shortages in different parts of the state and in different licensure areas. Allowing districts to hire retired teachers after negotiating contracts based on the party responsible for the KPERS assessment has been an asset for many of our members. Math, science, foreign language and special education teachers can be hard to find in even more populous areas of the state; they can be almost non-existent in more sparsely populated areas. By paying the actuarial rate plus the employees' contribution plus an additional 4 percent, there does not appear to be a hit to the retirement system, an important consideration.

The Kansas Public Employees Retirement Study Commission considered the issue and chose not to make a recommendation that would have prevented the practice. It saw the benefits as well as allowing retirees to make that choice, particularly given the ability of the district to assign up to 100 percent of the contribution to the employee and none to the employer if the employee saw that as advantageous.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our input.