



Texas Emergency Services Retirement System

Invitation to Provide Public Comment

May 23, 2018 - Austin, Texas

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (the Board) is inviting public testimony from your department about the retirement system, its administration, and its retirement plan design at a public meeting of the Board on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 2:00 pm at the Hyatt Place Austin Airport, 9532 Spirit of Austin Lane, Austin, Texas 78719.

The Board is interested in hearing your ideas and recommendations about improving the plan design of the retirement system and simplifying the administration of the program. Your public testimony may be provided in person or in writing. Information about scheduling your public testimony is found in Item 4, Public Testimony Information, at the end of this document.

Topics of interest to the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Is the Local Board needed?

- Recommend changes, if any, in Local Board membership, required actions, and responsibilities that would simplify the local administration of the program.
- If the Local Board is not required, what are your recommendations for local administration?

2. Plan Design – Membership Requirements

- What are your recommendations regarding changes to plan design elements of the retirement system that will help your department recruit and retain department members?
 - Retirement system enrollment criteria:
 - Should your department be able to enroll paid employees in the system as long as they are not covered by another pension program?
 - What impact would the elimination of the option to enroll a member after a six-month probationary period have on your department?
 - Certification of physical fitness by the Local Board:
 - Would the removal of the retirement system's physical fitness requirement improve your ability to enroll members into the system without reducing your ability to protect the health and welfare of your members?
 - Local Board review and certification of qualified service to earn retirement system credit:
 - Do the qualified service requirements of the system provide an incentive to members of your department to attend training and respond to emergencies?
 - Should departments have the ability to establish higher performance standards for qualified service than those established by the Board?
- Are there other aspects of the plan design you recommend changing?
- Would a defined contribution retirement program improve your ability to recruit and retain department members?

3. Other Ideas

- Provide other recommendations for improving the program that you want to share with the Board.

4. Public Testimony Information:

Your public testimony may be provided:

- In person – Attend the public meeting of the Board to be held at 2:00pm, May 23, 2018 at Hyatt Place Austin Airport, 9532 Spirit of Austin Lane, Austin, Texas 78719;
- In writing – Please submit your written testimony by letter or fax no later than 12:00pm on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 addressed to Frank Torres, Chairman, at:
 - Texas Emergency Services Retirement System, P.O. Box 12577, Austin, Texas, 78711;
 - Via email at info@tesrs.texas.gov; or
 - Via FAX at 512-936-3480.