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## MRTA ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**PRIORITY - *MRTA supports full funding of the Foundation Formula and opposes the use of public tax dollars for private schools.*** The Missouri Constitution mandates adequate funding of K-12 education through HB 2 which requires education funding as the second priority of state expenditures. The Public School Foundation Formula is currently underfunded by at least \$650 million dollars. This is particularly troublesome for rural schools and inner city schools because a high percentage of their funding comes from the state.

**PRIORITY - *MRTA opposes SB 94 (Emery), HB 484 (Koenig), and HB 485 (Koenig).*** SB 94 (Emery) and HB 484 (Koenig) puts State legislators into a 401(k) retirement plan; and HB 485 (Koenig) establishes a hybrid retirement plan and requires all new members of the plan to participate in the Defined Contribution Plan (DC) for state employees and elected officials who become employed on or after January 1, 2016. MRTA opposes any 401(k) (DC) plans for Missouri public employees including the Legislature. This is a slippery slope that leads to educators being put into a 401(k).

**PRIORITY – *MRTA supports HB 478 (Fitzwater) and SB 219 (Wallingford).*** This legislation reinstates the 2.55 factor for educators after 31 years of service. This legislation is a net GAIN for the PSRS/PEERS systems and will help retain good educators in the classroom.

**PRIORITY – *MRTA supports HB 1008 (Mitten) a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Saint Louis City retirees who have not had a COLA for 9 years.*** This is an issue of fairness in the fact that PSRS/PEERS retirees have an automatic COLA written into Missouri Law. Saint Louis City retirees have lost approximately 20% of their buying power in the last 8 years. The Kansas City System retirees have not had a COLA in 6 years. We call on the Legislature to persuade the Kansas City School System and the PSRS of Kansas City, the Saint Louis School District and the PSRS of STL to grant a COLA increase in 2015 to current retirees.

**PRIORITY - *MRTA opposes SB 27 (Emery) a version of Amendment 3 which was defeated by 77% of the vote of the people November 4, 2014.*** SB 27 reduces local control of school districts by requiring educator evaluations and salaries to be based on student performance. SB 27 requires school report cards and eliminates tenure.

**PRIORITY – *MRTA supports HB 1085 (Lair)*** which requires that any retiree who is employed by a third party or is performing work as an independent contractor as a temporary or long-term substitute teacher be

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## **HB 1085**

required to comply with the statutory working after retirement requirements of 50% salary and 550 hours.

“Our PSRS/PEERS system is being shortchanged as more and more school districts circumvent the 550 hour law by using Employment Agencies instead of hiring a new educator who then pays into the system. If you have to live by the 550 Hour law they should too.” Jim Kreider

**PRIORITY - MRTA supports HB 1086 which allows for any retiree that selects a Joint-and-Survivor benefit option** and has a subsequent divorce be allowed to adjust to a Single Life benefit upon receipt of the application.

- o This will only occur if the divorce decree provides for sole retention of their retirement benefits.
- o Retroactive benefits are not payable.
- o The divorce must occur on or after September 1, 2015.