



May 21, 2014

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The Honorable Rob Bonta, Chair  
Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 153  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 1219 (Torres): Public employees' retirement: service after retirement  
As amended April 1, 2014 - SUPPORT**

The California State Association of Counties is pleased to support Senate Bill 1219, by Senator Norma Torres, which will clarify the intent of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) as it relates to retired public employees.

While the passage of PEPRA in 2012 was instrumental in providing reasonable tools to both retain fair benefits for public employees and improve the fiscal strength of county pension systems, it also created several unintended consequences for which clarification is necessary. One such necessary resolution is regarding the exemption for public agency retirees to serve their community as an elected official without jeopardizing access to the retirement benefits they've earned in their previous public employment. We believe that the Legislature never intended to call into question these situations when enacting comprehensive pension reform. Rather, this was one of the many complex details that simply was not addressed nor even contemplated in the crafting of the PEPRA's provisions.

SB 1219 maintains the current practice that has served municipalities well for several decades. Failure to enact these clarifying positions and a strict interpretation of PEPRA would indicate that many current county supervisors would be unable to serve in the capacity to which they were duly elected. Moreover, those supervisors, if allowed to serve, would be required to reinstate and thus lose their retirement compensation in exchange for, in some cases, very modest compensation under each county's salary schedule. This has the practical effect of deterring public retirees from running for the Board of Supervisors and eliminates a large amount of a county's population from contemplating elected public service.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 1219 and thanks the Legislature and Administration for addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Faith Conley'.

Faith Conley  
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Norma Torres, California State Assembly  
Members, Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee  
Karon Green, Consultant, Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee



Pamela Schneider, Consultant, Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee  
Terry Mast, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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