



# Board of Retirement Regular Meeting

## Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

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### Agenda Item 13

**MEETING DATE:** March 18, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

**SUBMITTED FOR:**  Action  Information

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss proposal to increase Board of Retirement meeting per diem (AB 1619).

#### **PURPOSE/STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

This item supports the Strategic Management Plan objective to sustain board governance effectiveness.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Orange County Employees' Retirement System (OCERS) is sponsoring legislation that would establish a mechanism to increase the \$100 meeting per diem paid to certain members of the Board of Retirement. Under AB 1619, the County Board of Supervisors would be authorized to permit the Board of Retirement to increase the per diem up to \$320.

Currently, appointed and retiree representatives receive a \$100 meeting per diem pursuant to Government Code section 31521.1. Elected Miscellaneous and Safety representatives, as well as the ex officio member (the Director of the Sacramento County Department of Finance), do not receive a per diem.

The \$100 per diem has not changed since 1983; \$320 represents the inflation-adjusted equivalent of that rate more than 40 years later. OCERS asserts that the current per diem does not adequately reflect the significant time commitment, expertise, and fiduciary responsibilities required of trustees, and that updated compensation would help CERL systems attract and retain experienced and qualified board members essential to effective pension governance.

OCERS further notes that the proposed increase is consistent with legislative changes in 2018 for governing boards of other California special districts. AB 2329 amended the enabling statutes of several types of special districts—including health care districts, cemetery districts, and regional park districts—to increase the maximum monthly compensation for board members attending meetings and to allow for annual increases thereafter. OCERS contends that county

boards of retirement should be afforded similar flexibility. While some special districts have implemented increased per diems, \$100 remains the standard meeting per diem for most state and local boards and commissions, including the CalPERS and CalSTRS boards.

Advocating for or against legislation can entail costs in terms of time, energy, and institutional reputation, and these considerations warrant careful evaluation. Notably, the Legislative Committee of the State Association of County Retirement Systems declined to take a position on AB 1619.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- AB 1619 bill language

Prepared by:

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Eric Stern  
Chief Executive Officer

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1619**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Valencia  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chen)**

January 21, 2026

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An act to amend Section 31521 of the Government Code, relating to public employees' retirement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1619, as introduced, Valencia. County employees' retirement: administration.

Existing law, the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, authorizes counties to establish retirement systems pursuant to its provisions in order to provide pension benefits to county, city, and district employees and their beneficiaries. Existing law sets forth the membership composition for boards of retirement and boards of investment, as specified. Existing law authorizes the board of supervisors for counties for which these provisions apply to provide that certain members of these boards shall receive compensation at a rate of not more than \$100 for a meeting or for a meeting of a committee authorized by the entire board.

This bill would authorize the above-described compensation rate to be increased by the board of retirement to not more than \$320 per meeting, and would provide that this provision would not be operative in any county until it is adopted by a majority vote of the board of supervisors.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 31521 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 31521. (a) The board of supervisors may provide that the  
4 fourth and fifth members, and in counties having a board consisting  
5 of nine members or nine members and an alternate retired member,  
6 the fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, and alternate retired members,  
7 and in counties having a board of investments under Section  
8 31520.2, the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth members of  
9 the board of investments, shall receive compensation at a rate of  
10 not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for a meeting, or for a  
11 meeting of a committee authorized by the board, for not more than  
12 five meetings per month, together with actual and necessary  
13 expenses for all members of the board.  
14 (b) *The compensation rate established by the board of*  
15 *supervisors pursuant to subdivision (a) may be increased by the*  
16 *board of retirement to a rate of not more than three hundred twenty*  
17 *dollars (\$320). This subdivision shall not be operative in any*  
18 *county until it is adopted by a majority vote of the board of*  
19 *supervisors.*

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