

May 12, 2008

TO: Chief Jerry Dyer, President
California Police Chiefs Association

SUBJECT: Retired Members Committee Report

FROM: Sal Rosano, Chair

Thirty five retired members of our association attended the annual conference in Fresno, California. Most of them attended the combined retired members workshop and committee meeting and heard a presentation by retired San Francisco Captain Jim Molinari, now the California state director for United States Senator Diane Feinstein.

Mr. Molinari outlined the provisions of S206, introduced by Senator Feinstein, and titled the "Social Security Fairness Act". This legislation is designed to correct an inequity in existing Federal law which penalizes almost all public employees who receive a pension other than Social Security even though these employee's may have been required to pay into Social Security, or had earned sufficient quarters from non public employment to otherwise qualify.

While Senator Feinstein has garnered 35 co-sponsors in the Senate, the likelihood of this legislation receiving passage is remote. The problem appears to be the significant cost to cover all the public employee's at the local, county state and federal level whose Social Security benefits have been significantly reduced even though they would have otherwise qualified by their contributions to the system.

The cost estimate for adopting this proposed legislation is estimated at sixty (60) billion dollars, a not insignificant sum, since it would include many retired federal employees along with local and state retiree's. Since the Social Security system has been the subject of debate regarding its future solvency, any additional demands on the revenue's available does not sit well with many in congress, even though these retired employee's have made substantial contributions to this system over the many years of their employment.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, it was the consensus of the retired members present that this issue was not unique to California, and should probably be pursued at a national level. It was agreed that we would contact our association's representative to SACOP in the hope that all state's had an interest in seeing this legislation advanced and taking the lead in lobbying for some fairness in this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Sal Rosano, Chair, Retired Members Committee