

April 13, 2022

The Honorable Jim Cooper Chair of the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 5720 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1667 (Cooper)
Position: Support

Set for hearing: April 20, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Cooper:

The California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) represents over 24,000 school business officials in public education leading operational, fiscal, and budget offices in local education agencies (LEAs) across the state. Our members are charged with ensuring LEAs are fiscally solvent and operating to provide services, materials, equipment and facilities to support the education of California's 5.9 million students.

CASBO has reviewed your AB 1667 and has taken a SUPPORT position. This important measure will create a more transparent and accountable system to ensure school and community college districts receive timely and accurate information from CalSTRS, reducing the likelihood of reporting mistakes in the future. Specifically, this bill will:

- 1. Ensure retired members are not held liable for prior overpayments, except in cases of "member error;"
- 2. Hold CalSTRS accountable for guidance later determined to be erroneous;
- 3. Require that CalSTRS regularly update an official guidance document governing employer reporting;
- 4. Clarify that any changes to CalSTRS' interpretation of creditable compensation laws must be preceded by prior notice;
- 5. Require that CalSTRS publish all audit reports on their website; and
- 6. Ensure that CalSTRS' appeal process allows all individuals impacted by an audit the right to appeal.

CASBO thanks you for your leadership in championing this effort. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Esquivel at eesquivel@casbo.org.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Esquivel

Senior Director of Policy & Governance

California Association of School Business Officials