

Testimony Of
Joseph Piechta, President
Administrative And Residual Employees Union
Before The Government Administration and Elections Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 382
AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERPAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO RETIRED STATE
EMPLOYEES
&
In Opposition of House Bill 5481
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Joseph Piechta and I am the president of the Administrative and Residual Employees Union, also known as A&R. A&R is comprised of approximately 3000 state employees with over 267 individual job titles, from Elevator Inspectors, Accountants, Tax Collectors and Fiscal Employees.

SB 382

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 382, An Act Concerning the Overpayment of Benefits to Retired State Employees. Any individual who is receiving payments from a retirement system is dependent upon this fixed income. An individual who, through no fault of their own, is overpaid for a period of more than twenty-four months has little to no avenue to recoup the needed money to repay such a long standing error. This request of repayment would put undue stress and hardship upon these individuals who have fulfilled their end of the contract and were not at fault. Please support

Senate Bill 382 and protect our retired state employees from undue hardship.

HB 5481

I am testifying in Opposition to HB 5481, An Act Establishing the Central Office of Administrative Hearings. This bill proposes the transferring of hearings that are currently conducted by other State Departments to the proposed Central Office of Administrative Hearings. This bill would have an unforeseen impact upon our members in numerous State Departments. The transferring of current employees as defined in Section 4 of this bill is vague and leaves us with no clear knowledge as to which of our members would be transferred. I ask the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to oppose House Bill 5481.

Sincerely, Joseph Piechta A&R President