



On January 9, 2019, Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) introduced the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act to address the nation's multiemployer pension crisis. The newly introduced bill, which tracks similar legislation introduced by Rep. Neal and Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) last Congress, has five Democratic and five Republican co-sponsors.

The bill establishes the Pension Rehabilitation Administration (PRA), a new agency within the Department of the Treasury that is authorized to issue bonds in order to finance loans to "critical and declining" status multiemployer pension plans, plans that have suspended benefits, and some recently insolvent plans currently receiving financial assistance from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The PRA would be headed by a Director, who will have a term of five years and be appointed by the President.

Over one hundred multiemployer pension funds across the U.S., including the Central States Pension Fund, have become severely underfunded and are in critical and declining status. Without Congressional action, Central States will run out of money by 2025 or sooner. The other funds in crisis face a similar fate. A steep or total loss of promised pension benefits would clearly be devastating to current and future beneficiaries.

Original co-sponsors of the legislation are Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ), Rep. John Katko (R-NY), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE).

A summary of the bill can be found [here](#), and the full text of the legislation is available [here](#).

For more information on the pension crisis, please visit VoicesForPensionSecurity.com.