



# Pension Fund Notes

Newsletter of the American Federation of Musicians and  
Employers' Pension Fund

## House Ways and Means Committee Approves Butch Lewis Act

Today, the House Ways and Means Committee voted to approve HR 397, the “Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act” – the House’s version of the “Butch Lewis Act.” [Video of the hearing is available here.](#)

As discussed in previous issues of Pension Fund Notes, this bill would provide low-interest government loans to struggling multiemployer plans, including the AFM-EPF. These loans would provide enough money for a multiemployer fund to pay current retirees and beneficiaries their benefits for life, which would allow the fund to grow back to stronger financial footing. The Trustees maintain their strong support for this bill and encourage participants to tell their Members of Congress to get behind it as well.

[Click here for tools to contact your Members of Congress by phone and email.](#)

The full House of Representatives is expected to vote on the Act this year. We will notify participants when the vote is set.

Although today’s Committee vote did not demonstrate bipartisan support, Congressional leaders are continuing negotiations to find common ground. It is hoped that a bipartisan legislative solution that fully solves the multiemployer pension fund crisis can pass both houses of Congress and be signed into law by the President this year.

For the time being, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act is the only legislation introduced in Congress that successfully addresses the financial issues facing the AFM-EPF. [As the CEO of the actuarial firm Cheiron explained in a recent op-ed in \*The Hill\*](#), this legislative approach is essential to protect the benefits of 1.3 million multiemployer participants whose funds now face the prospect of future insolvency.

While we push for legislation from Congress, we will continue to take every action available under existing federal law to prevent the Fund from running out of money to pay benefits. This includes applying to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to reduce benefits under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act. We must do everything we can to preserve the AFM-EPF for current participants and future generations of musicians.

If Congress passes the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act or other legislation that allows us to withdraw our MPRA application or roll back benefit reductions while still avoiding insolvency, then the Trustees will plan to do that. In fact, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act requires multiemployer pension funds to reinstate any benefits reduced under MPRA before receiving a government loan.

[Contact your Members of Congress and tell them we need a solution to this crisis now.](#)

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