

Calif. lawmakers collect public pensions and legislator's salaries

By Patrick McGreevy, Los Angeles Times

Republican state Sen. John Moorlach of Costa Mesa has emerged as a leading voice in the Legislature against skyrocketing debt piled up by public pension systems.

But some in the pension reform movement say the former Orange County treasurer may be contributing to the problem: Moorlach receives an \$83,827 government pension check from the Orange County Employees Retirement System while making \$100,113 a year as a senator.

At least 16 other state lawmakers collect two checks each month, including Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove), who retired two years ago at 50 as a captain in the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. When added to his legislative pay, Cooper's annual pension of \$173,820 brings his total income each year to \$273,000.

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