

HB 643 -- MISSOURI LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Hinson

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Financial Institutions and Taxation by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill authorizes a political subdivision, by a majority vote of its governing body, to elect to cover emergency police dispatchers and jailors as policemen members and emergency fire dispatchers and emergency medical service personnel as firemen members for purposes of coverage under the Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System.

Such an election must become effective on the first day of the calendar month specified by the governing body, the first day of the calendar month following receipt by the board of the election certification, or the effective date of the political subdivision becoming an employer, whichever is the latest.

Limitations in current law that provide that an employer's total contribution to the system must not exceed the total contributions for the preceding fiscal year by more than 1% must not apply to an increase resulting from an employer's election for the coverage under the provisions of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill authorizes political subdivisions to elect to cover additional employees for retirement benefits, including emergency police dispatchers, jailors, emergency fire dispatchers, and emergency medical service personnel.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hinson; Keith Hughes, Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System; and Vernon County Ambulance District.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.