

HCS SB 283 -- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Kehoe (Leara)

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

This bill changes the laws regarding public employee retirement systems.

MISSOURI LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The bill allows a political subdivision who is an employer having a retirement plan for its employees that is similar to the Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LAGERS) to enter into an agreement with the board of the system to assume all duties and responsibilities of operating the political subdivision's prior plan if the political subdivision is a current employer in LAGERS or will become a member employer in LAGERS and the subdivision has made an election to cover any new employees.

After making the necessary changes to the statute, city ordinance, city charter, or governing documents of the employer's prior plan and upon receiving a concurring resolution from the board of trustees of the prior plan after a simple majority vote of the active employees of the prior plan, the employer may enter into an agreement to operate the employer's prior plan.

The employer's prior plan must be administered as a frozen prior plan by LAGERS and must continue to operate under its existing governing documents in all other respects. The employer must continue to have sole responsibility for the full funding of its prior plan including all related expenses. If any employer fails to make any payment due under the prior plan, it will be delinquent and the amount of the delinquency will constitute a first lien on the funds of the political subdivision, and the State Treasurer and Director of the Department of Revenue must withhold all moneys due the political subdivision from the state until the amount plus interest is paid.

POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

The bill changes the laws regarding the disability determination process of the Police Retirement System of the City of St. Louis. The bill eliminates the board of police commissioners and transfers its responsibilities to the chief of police. The definition of "medical board" is changed from the board of three physicians of

different disciplines appointed by the trustees of the police retirement board and responsible for arranging and passing on all required medical examinations and investigations regarding an application for disability retirement to the health care organization appointed by the trustees with those responsibilities.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow political subdivisions to get out of the pension business, save money, and allow the Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LAGERS) to assume all duties and responsibilities of operating the employer's prior retirement plan because it has the expertise. This plan is voluntary, and the political subdivision and LAGERS both have to be in agreement if this is to take place.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kehoe; Norm Robinson, Jefferson City Firefighters Pension Plan; and Keith Hughes, Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.