

HB 2416 -- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Leara

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" 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.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS AND CIRCUIT ATTORNEYS' RETIREMENT FUND

This bill modifies provisions relating to the prosecuting attorneys and circuit attorneys' retirement fund.

Allows any county that votes to make the county prosecutor a full-time position that will be eligible for such retirement benefits.

Modifies the definition of compensation to include salary reduction amounts under a cafeteria plan or eligible deferred compensation plan.

Requires members of the retirement fund, beginning January 1, 2017, to contribute 2% of their gross salary to the fund. Nonvested members who separate from the system will receive a lump sum payment equal to their total contribution only.

Allows the retirement system, in addition to any retirement benefits paid to a member at retirement, to return the contributions made by the member in a lump sum.

Any member not having at least 12 years of service on August 28, 2016 will not be eligible to retire until attaining age 65 with at least 12 years of service.

Modifies the COLA provision to provide a COLA between 2% and 4% which will be equal to the increase in the consumer price index when it is at least 2% and not more than 4%.

Any member with less than 12 years of creditable service on August 28, 2016, who terminates employment after such date with 12 years of creditable service, shall be entitled to a deferred normal annuity payable at age 60.

Allows former members with forfeited creditable service to restore such service if they become employed within two years of terminating employment, completing four years of continuous membership and contributing an amount equal to the any lump sum benefit received.

Members serving as prosecuting attorney in counties that elected to make the position full-time shall receive one year of creditable service for each year served as a full-time and .6 for each year as a part-time prosecutor.

ALTERNATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

This bill reestablishes a provision allowing an employee earning creditable service in the Employees Retirement System of the City of St. Louis who is transferred to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department as a police officer to make a one-time election within one year of transferring to either remain a member of the Employees Retirement System of the City of St. Louis or transfer membership and creditable service to the Police Retirement System of St. Louis.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow persons transferring from one system to the other to make a one-time election on transferring service from one system to the other.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Leara; Saint Louis Police Officers Association; and St. Louis Police Retirement System.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.