

HCS HB 865 -- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Walker (3)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 10 to 1.

LOCAL AREA GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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

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.

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BENEFITS

This bill allows airport police officers in the Employees Retirement System of the City of St. Louis the option of remaining in that retirement plan or to transfer their creditable service to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Any member transferring is subject to the conditions and requirements of Section 105.691, RSMo, relating to agreements to transfer service between plans.

MISSOURI STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND MODOT & PATROL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

This bill allows term vested members who are not yet eligible for a normal retirement benefit to make a one-time election to receive a lump sum payment equal to a percentage of the present value of such member's deferred annuity should a board choose to establish such a program. Members electing this option will forfeit all creditable service under the plan and if such member again becomes an employee he or she will be considered a new employee with no prior credited service.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow jailers and emergency medical service personnel to be qualified for retirement benefits. These employees deserve to be covered under the plan.

The bill also allows St. Louis airport police officers to elect to be covered under the St. Louis police retirement system which is

needed to make sure they are social security compliant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walker; Missouri State Council Of Firefighters; Scott Roy, Ambulance District Association of Missouri; Keith Hughes, Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS); St. Louis Police Officers Association; and the Missouri Ambulance Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.