

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 37

2016 Regular Session

Jones

RETIREMENT/MUNICIPAL EMP: Provides relative to the board of trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System

### Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes terms of office for the six active member trustees from the proposed four years back to present law six years.
2. Restricts the proposed two term limitation on board membership to make an active member trustee ineligible for re-election after one and one-half terms.
3. Changes proposed restriction on out-of-state seminar attendance paid for with system funds from one to one each fiscal year.

### Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) is governed by an 11-member board of trustees.

Present law provides that the board is composed of six active and contributing members of the system, three of whom are elected officials and three of whom are not elected officials. Requires each such member to have at least 10 years of creditable service. Provides for a term of six years. Proposed law requires only six years of creditable service for board members who are active and contributing members of the system and makes these members ineligible for board reelection after serving one and one-half terms.

Present law provides that the commissioner of administration and the state treasurer, or their designees, are members of this board; however, provides that they are nonvoting members. Proposed law provides that the commissioner of administration and the state treasurer, or their designees, serve as voting members of the MERS board.

Present law provides that the trustees shall serve without compensation but are entitled to a per diem and shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses in performing duties on behalf of the board. Provides that trustees are subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics. Proposed law provides that no trustee shall accept any thing of economic value, including food and drink and complementary admission to, lodging at, or reasonable transportation to and from educational or professional development seminars and conferences from a person who has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationship with the board. Proposed law provides that the prohibition on receipt of food and drink does not apply during educational or professional development seminars.

Present law imposes powers and duties upon the board of trustees and requires that the system submit an annual financial statement to the legislature. Proposed law requires the board to report, with the system's annual financial statement, an itemized schedule of all amounts paid by the system to or on behalf of the system's board members.

Present law makes the board of trustees the custodian of system funds and provides that expense vouchers shall be certified by the administrative director. Proposed law provides that the board may not authorize the use of system funds to pay for board member attendance at more than one seminar or conference out of state per fiscal year, and that any seminar or conference paid for by the board shall be affiliated with an association related to state retirement systems.

(Amends R.S. 11:1821(B)(1), (2), (6), and (7), (C), and (E) and 1842; Adds R.S. 11:1823(A)(22))