
DIGEST

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HB 37 Original

2018 Regular Session

Terry Brown

Abstract: Provides increased disability retirement benefits, permanent benefit increases, and state contributions for Office of Group Benefit (OGB) benefits for hazardous duty members of the La. State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence.

Present law provides the following disability benefits for the following LASERS members who become totally and permanently disabled from an injury received in the line of duty:

- (1) Members of the Corrections Plan: 60% of average compensation, subject to appropriation of funds.
- (2) Members of the Public Safety Services Plan with less than 10 years of service: 40% of average compensation. Members with 10 or more years of service: the greater of the member's regular retirement benefit calculated without reduction due to age or 40% of average compensation, whichever is greater.
- (3) Members of the Wildlife Agents Plan: 60% of average compensation.
- (4) Members of the Harbor Police Retirement Plan: 60% of average compensation.
- (5) Members of the Hazardous Duty Services Plan: 75% of average compensation.

Present law grants the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) authority to establish premium rates for health plans made available to retirees.

Proposed law provides increased disability benefits for a member of any of these plans who becomes permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries sustained, while engaged in the discharge of his duties, as a result of an intentional act of violence. Provides a disability benefit equal to 100% of his average compensation, a permanent benefit increase (PBI) every other year of 3%, and the highest available state contribution of the premium for participation in an OGB plan available to a retiree. Further provides that the surviving spouse of the member receiving these benefits shall receive a 3% PBI every other year. To be eligible for these benefits, proposed law requires that the member and his employer certify that his injuries were sustained as result of an intentional act of violence. Proposed law prohibits any such member and his surviving spouse from receiving any other PBI paid by the system.

Proposed law repeals requirement that disability benefits payable to members of the Primary Corrections Plans are subject to the appropriation of funds.

Proposed law applies to any disability retiree receiving disability benefits on the effective date of the Act if he is approved for the benefits provided by proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 11:212(B)(1), 461(B)(2), 603(A) and (B)(intro. para.), and 617(A); Adds R.S. 11:583(B)(3) and (4) and 3686(B)(1)(d) and (e))