

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 29****2019 Regular Session****Robert Johnson**

RETIREMENT/STATE EMPS: Provides relative to the payment of health insurance premiums for certain retirees of the Hazardous Duty Services Plan in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Provides that increased premium payments shall cease for the Hazardous Duty Services Plan member when the retiree attains the age sufficient to meet eligibility requirements for regular retirement; removes proposed elimination of requirement for such increased payments.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 11:611 et seq.) establishes the Hazardous Duty Services Plan (hereafter Haz Duty Plan) within the La. State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS). This plan is mandatory for new hires in certain positions after Jan. 1, 2011, and optional for employees who would have been eligible to be in the plan had they been hired after Jan. 1, 2011. Proposed law retains present law.

Retirement eligibility under the Haz Duty Plan is generally earlier than for other LASERS employees and is as follows:

- (1) 25 years or more of service, at any age.
- (2) 12 years or more of service, at age 55 or thereafter.
- (3) 20 years of service at any age, actuarially reduced from age 55.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 42:851) establishes the proportion of health insurance premiums that most active and retired employees are to pay. These proportions depend on variables such as when an employee was hired, how long an employee worked, and whether the employee is eligible for Medicare. Provides that the state shall pay a certain percentage of the premium and the employee or retiree shall pay the difference.

Present law (R.S. 11:620(E)) requires members who transferred into the Haz Duty Plan and who retired under provisions that allowed them to collect a retirement benefit earlier than they otherwise would have to pay an increased proportion of their health insurance premiums.

Proposed law provides that such increased premium payments cease when the retiree attains the age sufficient to meet eligibility requirements for regular retirement.

For the limited purpose of calculating revised amounts due pursuant to this Act, effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action; otherwise effective July 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 11:620(E))