

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 648 (HB 37)

2016 Regular Session

Jones

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

Existing 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. Such members serve six-year terms. Prior law required each such member to have at least 10 years of creditable service. New law requires only six years of creditable service for such board members. Makes these members ineligible for board reelection after serving one and one-half terms.

Existing law provides that the commissioner of administration and the state treasurer, or their designees, are members of this board; however, prior law provided that they were nonvoting members. New law provides that the commissioner of administration and the state treasurer, or their designees, serve as voting members of the MERS board.

Existing 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. New 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. New law provides that the prohibition on receipt of food and drink does not apply during educational or professional development seminars.

Existing law imposes powers and duties upon the board of trustees and requires that the system submit an annual financial statement to the legislature. New 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.

Existing law makes the board of trustees the custodian of system funds. New 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.

Effective August 1, 2016.

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