

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 29

2018 Regular Session

Pearson

RETIREMENT/MUNICIPAL EMP: Provides for the optional selection of payment of survivor benefits for a surviving spouse of a member of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Changes the deadline for notifying the system of election to receive benefits from 90 days after the death of the member to 90 days after the application for benefits.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law provides for benefits paid to a surviving spouse of a member of MERS who, at the time of death, had at least five years of creditable service but was not eligible for normal retirement.

Present law applicable to MERS Plan A provides that a surviving spouse *without* minor children may receive a benefit equal to 40% of the member's final compensation, payable upon the spouse's 60th birthday or upon his becoming disabled, or may receive the actuarial equivalent of 40% of final compensation, but not less than 20%, payable upon the death of the member.

Present law applicable to MERS Plan B provides that a surviving spouse *with or without* minor children may receive a benefit equal to 30% of the member's final compensation, payable upon the spouse's 60th birthday or upon his becoming disabled, or may receive an actuarial equivalent of 30% of final compensation, but not less than 15%, payable upon the death of the member.

Either benefit under either plan is payable for the life of the spouse.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires a surviving spouse opting to receive immediate payments to notify the system of the election. Further provides that such election shall be final and irrevocable.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the notification to be made within 90 days of the member's death.

Proposed law requires the surviving spouse's notification of his election to be made in writing. Further requires the notification to be made within 90 days of the application for benefits.

(Amends R.S. 11:1785(A) and 1805(A)(1)(b) and (2))