2018 REGULAR SESSION
ACTUARIAL NOTE HB 29

House Bill 29 HLS 18RS-256 **Enrolled** **Author: Representative Pearson** **Date: May 14, 2018** **LLA Note HB 29.05** **Organizations Affected:** **Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana** **EN NO IMPACT APV**	**This Note has been prepared by the Actuarial Services Department of the Legislative Auditor with assistance from either the Fiscal Notes staff of the Legislative Auditor or staff of the Legislative Fiscal Office. The attachment of this Note provides compliance with the requirements of R.S. 24:521 as amended by Act 353 of the 2016 Regular Session.** Paul T. Richmond **Paul T. Richmond, ASA, MAAA, EA** **Manager Actuarial Services**

Bill Header: 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.

Cost Summary:

The estimated actuarial and fiscal impact of HB 29 on the retirement systems and their plan sponsors is summarized below. Actuarial costs pertain to estimated changes in the ***actuarial present value of future benefit payments***. Fiscal costs or savings pertain to changes to all cash flows over the next five year period including retirement system cash flows, OPEB cash flows, or cash flows related to other government entities.

An increase in actuarial costs is denoted throughout the actuarial note by "Increase" or a positive number. Actuarial savings are denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number. An increase in expenditures or revenues (fiscal impact) is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. A decrease in expenditures or revenues is denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number.

Estimated Actuarial Impact:

The top part of the following chart shows the estimated change in the ***actuarial present value of future benefit payments and expenses***, if any, attributable to the proposed legislation. The bottom part shows the effect on cash flows.

Actuarial Costs Pertaining to:		**Actuarial Cost**
The Retirement Systems		$0
Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)		0
Other Government Entities		0
Total		$0
Five Year Fiscal Cost Pertaining to:	**Expenses**	**Revenues**
The Retirement Systems	$0	$0
Other Post Employment Benefits	0	0
Other Government Entities	0	0
Total	$0	$0

Bill Information

Current Law

Current law provides benefits for the surviving spouse of any member of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) with five or more years of creditable service who dies before becoming eligible for normal retirement.

The benefit from MERS Plan A for a surviving spouse without minor children is 40% of the member's final compensation payable upon the spouse's 60^{th} birthday or upon the spouse becoming disabled. The surviving spouse may elect to begin the benefit upon the death of the member, in which case it will be the actuarial equivalent of 40% of the member's final compensation, but not less than 20% of the member's final compensation.

The benefit from MERS Plan B for a surviving spouse with or without minor children is 30% of the member's final compensation payable upon the spouse's 60^{th} birthday or upon the spouse becoming disabled. The surviving spouse may elect to begin the benefit upon the death of the member, in which case it will be the actuarial equivalent of 30% of the member's final compensation, but not less than 15% of the member's final compensation.

In order to receive the actuarial equivalent benefit option under either Plan, the surviving spouse is required to elect such option and to notify the system of the election within 90 days of the death of the member.

Proposed Law

HB 29 will require notification to the system of the election to receive the actuarial equivalent benefit option. This election must be made in writing and within 90 days of the application for survivor benefits.

Implications of the Proposed Changes

The period to notify the system of the election to receive the actuarial equivalent option will be 90 days from the application for survivor benefits instead of 90 days from the death of the member. Also, requiring the survivor benefit election for the actuarial equivalent benefit option to be made in writing will provide the appropriate documentation to allow MERS to determine whether the election has been made within the 90 day period or not.

I. ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS SECTION

A. Analysis of Actuarial Costs
(Prepared by the LLA)

This section of the actuarial note pertains to actuarial costs or savings associated with the retirement systems, with OPEB, and with other government entities.

1. Retirement Systems

The actuarial cost or savings of HB 29 associated with the retirement systems is expected to be $0. Our analysis is summarized below.

Requiring an election to be made in writing and within 90 days of the application for survivor benefits instead of within 90 days of the death of the member does not change the amount or timing of benefit payments.

2. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

The actuarial cost or savings of HB 29 associated with OPEB, including retiree health insurance premiums, is expected to be $0. Our analysis is summarized below.

The liability for post-retirement medical insurance protection provided to retirees is not affected by requiring the death benefit election to be made in writing within 90 days of the application for survivor benefits instead of within 90 days of the death of the member.

3. Other Government Entities

The actuarial cost or savings of HB 29 associated with government entities other than those identified in HB 29, is expected to be $0.

B. Actuarial Data, Methods and Assumptions
(Prepared by the LLA)

Unless indicated otherwise, the actuarial note for HB 29 was prepared using actuarial data, methods, and assumptions as disclosed in the most recent actuarial valuation report adopted by PRSAC. The data, methods and assumptions are being used to provide consistency with the actuary for the retirement system who may also be providing testimony to the Senate and House retirement committees.

C. Actuarial Caveat
(Prepared by the LLA)

There is nothing in HB 29 that will compromise the signing actuary's ability to present an unbiased statement of actuarial opinion.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS SECTION

This section of the actuarial note pertains to fiscal costs or savings associated with the retirement systems (Table A), with OPEB (Table B), and with other fiscal costs or savings associated with government entities not associated with either the retirement systems or OPEB (Table C). Fiscal costs or savings in Table A include administrative costs associated with the retirement systems and the sponsoring government entities. The total effect of HB 29 on fiscal costs, fiscal savings, or cash flows is presented in Table D.

A. Estimated Fiscal Impact – Retirement Systems
(Prepared by the LLA)

1. Narrative

Table A shows the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed legislation on the retirement systems and the government entities that sponsor them. A fiscal cost is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. Fiscal savings are denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number. A revenue increase is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. A revenue decrease is denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number.

Retirement System Fiscal Cost: Table A

EXPENDITURES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

REVENUES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

HB 29 will have no effect on retirement related fiscal costs and revenues during the five year measurement period.

B. <u>Estimated Fiscal Impact – OPEB</u>
(Prepared by the LLA)

1. Narrative

Table B shows the estimated fiscal impact of HB 29 on actuarial costs or savings associated with OPEB and the government entities that sponsor these benefit programs. Fiscal costs or savings in Table B include administrative costs associated with the government entity sponsoring the OPEB program. A fiscal cost is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. Fiscal savings are denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number. A revenue increase is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. A revenue decrease is denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number.

OPEB Fiscal Cost: Table B

EXPENDITURES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

REVENUES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

HB 29 will have no effect on OPEB related fiscal costs and revenues during the five year measurement period.

C. <u>Estimated Fiscal Impact: Other Government Entities (unrelated to the retirement systems or OPEB)</u>
(Prepared by Bradley Cryer, Assistant Legislative Auditor)

1. Narrative

From time to time, legislation is proposed that has an indirect effect on cash flows associated with other government entities, unrelated to the retirement systems or OPEB. Table C shows the estimated fiscal impact of HB 29 on such government entities. A fiscal cost is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. Fiscal savings are denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number.

Fiscal Costs for Other Government Entities: Table C

EXPENDITURES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

REVENUES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

HB 29 will have the following effects on fiscal costs and revenues related to other government entities during the five year measurement period.

2. Expenditures:

This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact.

3. Revenues:

This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact.

D. Estimated Fiscal Impact − All Retirement Systems, OPEB, and All Government Entities
(Prepared by the LLA)

1. Narrative

Table D shows the estimated fiscal impact of HB 29 on all government entities within the state of Louisiana. Cell values in Table D are the sum of the respective cell values in Table A, table B, and Table C. A fiscal cost is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. Fiscal savings are denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number. A revenue increase is denoted by "Increase" or a positive number. A revenue decrease is denoted by "Decrease" or a negative number.

Total Fiscal Cost: Table D (Cumulative Costs from Tables A, B, & C)

EXPENDITURES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

REVENUES	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23	5 Year Total
State General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Agy Self Generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stat Deds/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Total	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

Credentials of the Signatory Staff:

Paul T. Richmond is the Manager of Actuarial Services for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. He is an Enrolled Actuary, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, a member of the Society of Actuaries and has met the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries necessary to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

Bradley Cryer, Assistant Legislative Auditor, has supervised the preparation of the fiscal analyses contained herein.

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Information Pertaining to Article (10)(29(F) of the Louisiana Constitution

☐ HB 29 contains a retirement system benefit provision having an actuarial cost.

No member of MERS will receive a larger benefit with the enactment of HB 29 than what he would have received without HB 29.

Dual Referral Relative to Total Fiscal Costs or Total Cash Flows:

The information presented below is based on information contained in Table D for the first three years following the 2018 regular session.

Senate			House		
☐	13.5.1	Applies to Senate or House Instruments. If an annual fiscal cost ≥ $100,000, then bill is dual referred to: **Dual Referral: Senate Finance**	☐	6.8F	Applies to Senate or House Instruments. If an annual General Fund fiscal cost ≥ $100,000, then the bill is dual referred to: **Dual Referral to Appropriations**
☐	13.5.2	Applies to Senate or House Instruments. If an annual tax or fee change ≥ $500,000, then the bill is dual referred to: **Dual Referral: Revenue and Fiscal Affairs**	☐	6.8G	Applies to Senate Instruments only. If a net fee decrease occurs or if an increase in annual fees and taxes ≥ $500,000, then the bill is dual referred to: **Dual Referral: Ways and Means**