

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2011 and 2012 HB2958

Introduced 2/23/2011, by Rep. Lisa M. Dugan

## SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

 40 ILCS 5/7-109.3
 from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-109.3

 40 ILCS 5/7-142.1
 from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-142.1

 40 ILCS 5/7-150
 from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-150

 40 ILCS 5/7-156
 from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-156

 30 ILCS 805/8.35 new

Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that if a full-time firefighter or firefighter/paramedic employed by a city, village, incorporated town, or township that meets certain requirements is not eligible to participate in a retirement fund created under the Downstate Firefighters Article of the Code, then he or she is eligible to participate, as a sheriff's law enforcement employee, under the IMRF Article of the Code. Specifies survivor and occupational disease disability benefits that are available to the qualifying firefighters. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

LRB097 07145 JDS 47247 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE ACT MAY APPLY STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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1 AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

## Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Illinois Pension Code is amended by changing Sections 7-109.3, 7-142.1, 7-150, and 7-156 as follows:
- 6 (40 ILCS 5/7-109.3) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-109.3)
- 7 Sec. 7-109.3. "Sheriff's Law Enforcement Employees".
- 8 (a) "Sheriff's law enforcement employee" or "SLEP" means:
  - (1) A county sheriff and all deputies, other than special deputies, employed on a full time basis in the office of the sheriff.
    - (2) A person who has elected to participate in this Fund under Section 3-109.1 of this Code, and who is employed by a participating municipality to perform police duties.
    - (3) A law enforcement officer employed on a full time basis by a Forest Preserve District, provided that such officer shall be deemed a "sheriff's law enforcement employee" for the purposes of this Article, and service in that capacity shall be deemed to be service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee, only if the board of commissioners of the District have so elected by adoption of an affirmative resolution. Such election, once made, may

not be rescinded.

- (4) A person not eligible to participate in a fund established under Article 3 of this Code who is employed on a full-time basis by a participating municipality or participating instrumentality to perform police duties at an airport, but only if the governing authority of the employer has approved sheriff's law enforcement employee status for its airport police employees by adoption of an affirmative resolution. Such approval, once given, may not be rescinded.
- (5) Any full-time firefighter or firefighter/paramedic employed by a city, village, incorporated town, or township that has a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants, is located in a county of more than 1,000,000 inhabitants, and employs 40 or more full-time paid firefighters or firefighter/paramedics who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement, provided that such a person is not eligible to participate in a fund established under Article 4 of this Code.
- (b) An employee who is a sheriff's law enforcement employee and is granted military leave or authorized leave of absence shall receive service credit in that capacity. Sheriff's law enforcement employees shall not be entitled to out-of-State service credit under Section 7-139.
- 25 (Source: P.A. 92-16, eff. 6-28-01.)

- 1 (40 ILCS 5/7-142.1) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-142.1)
- 2 Sec. 7-142.1. Sheriff's law enforcement employees.
- 3 (a) In lieu of the retirement annuity provided by subparagraph 1 of paragraph (a) of Section 7-142:

Any sheriff's law enforcement employee who has 20 or more years of service in that capacity and who terminates service prior to January 1, 1988 shall be entitled at his option to receive a monthly retirement annuity for his service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee computed by multiplying 2% for each year of such service up to 10 years, 2 1/4% for each year of such service above 10 years and up to 20 years, and 2 1/2% for each year of such service above 20 years, by his annual final rate of earnings and dividing by 12.

Any sheriff's law enforcement employee who has 20 or more years of service in that capacity and who terminates service on or after January 1, 1988 and before July 1, 2004 shall be entitled at his option to receive a monthly retirement annuity for his service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee computed by multiplying 2.5% for each year of such service up to 20 years, 2% for each year of such service above 20 years and up to 30 years, and 1% for each year of such service above 30 years, by his annual final rate of earnings and dividing by 12.

Any sheriff's law enforcement employee who has 20 or more years of service in that capacity and who terminates service on or after July 1, 2004 shall be entitled at his or her option to

receive a monthly retirement annuity for service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee computed by multiplying 2.5% for each year of such service by his annual final rate of earnings and

dividing by 12.

If a sheriff's law enforcement employee has service in any other capacity, his retirement annuity for service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee may be computed under this Section and the retirement annuity for his other service under Section 7-142.

In no case shall the total monthly retirement annuity for persons who retire before July 1, 2004 exceed 75% of the monthly final rate of earnings. In no case shall the total monthly retirement annuity for persons who retire on or after July 1, 2004 exceed 80% of the monthly final rate of earnings.

- (b) Whenever continued group insurance coverage is elected in accordance with the provisions of Section 367h of the Illinois Insurance Code, as now or hereafter amended, the total monthly premium for such continued group insurance coverage or such portion thereof as is not paid by the municipality shall, upon request of the person electing such continued group insurance coverage, be deducted from any monthly pension benefit otherwise payable to such person pursuant to this Section, to be remitted by the Fund to the insurance company or other entity providing the group insurance coverage.
- (c) A sheriff's law enforcement employee who has service in any other capacity may convert up to 10 years of that service

- into service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee by paying to the Fund an amount equal to (1) the additional employee contribution required under Section 7-173.1, plus (2) the additional employer contribution required under Section 7-172, plus (3) interest on items (1) and (2) at the prescribed rate from the date of the service to the date of payment.
  - (d) The changes to subsections (a) and (b) of this Section made by this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly apply only to persons in service on or after July 1, 2004. In the case of such a person who begins to receive a retirement annuity before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, the annuity shall be recalculated prospectively to reflect those changes, with the resulting increase beginning to accrue on the first annuity payment date following the effective date of this amendatory Act.
  - (e) Any elected county officer who was entitled to receive a stipend from the State on or after July 1, 2009 and on or before June 30, 2010 may establish earnings credit for the amount of stipend not received, if the elected county official applies in writing to the fund within 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly and pays to the fund an amount equal to (i) employee contributions on the amount of stipend not received, (ii) employer contributions determined by the Board equal to the employer's normal cost of the benefit on the amount of stipend not received, plus (iii) interest on items (i) and (ii) at the

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- 1 actuarially assumed rate.
- 2 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the provisions of this subsection (f) apply to a person who 3 first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this 4 5 Article on or after January 1, 2011, except any person employed as a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic before January 1, 6 7 2011, who, after that date, first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article by operation of 8 9 paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3.
  - A sheriff's law enforcement employee age 55 or more who has 10 or more years of service in that capacity shall be entitled at his option to receive a monthly retirement annuity for his or her service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee computed by multiplying 2.5% for each year of such service by his or her final rate of earnings.
  - The retirement annuity of a sheriff's law enforcement employee who is retiring after attaining age 50 with 10 or more years of creditable service shall be reduced by one-half of 1% for each month that the sheriff's law enforcement employee's age is under age 55.
- 21 The maximum retirement annuity under this subsection (f) 22 shall be 75% of final rate of earnings.
  - For the purposes of this subsection (f), "final rate of earnings" means the average monthly earnings obtained by dividing the total salary of the sheriff's law enforcement employee during the 96 consecutive months of service within the

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last 120 months of service in which the total earnings was the highest by the number of months of service in that period.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, beginning on January 1, 2011, for all purposes under this Code (including without limitation the calculation of benefits and employee contributions), except with regard to any person employed as a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic before January 1, 2011, who, after that date, first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article by operation of paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3, the annual earnings of a sheriff's law enforcement employee to whom this Section applies shall not include overtime and shall not exceed \$106,800; however, that amount shall annually thereafter be increased by the lesser of (i) 3% of that amount, including all previous adjustments, or (ii) one-half the annual unadjusted percentage increase (but not less than zero) in the consumer price index-u for the 12 months ending with the September preceding each November 1, including all previous adjustments.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the monthly annuity of a person who first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article on or after January 1, 2011, except any person employed as a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic before January 1, 2011, who, after that date, first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article by operation of paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of

- Section 7-109.3, shall be increased on the January 1 occurring either on or after the attainment of age 60 or the first anniversary of the annuity start date, whichever is later. Each annual increase shall be calculated at 3% or one-half the annual unadjusted percentage increase (but not less than zero) in the consumer price index-u for the 12 months ending with the September preceding each November 1, whichever is less, of the originally granted retirement annuity. If the annual unadjusted percentage change in the consumer price index-u for a 12-month period ending in September is zero or, when compared with the preceding period, decreases, then the annuity shall not be increased.
- (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, for a person who first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article on or after January 1, 2011, except any person employed as a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic before January 1, 2011, who, after that date, first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article by operation of paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3, the annuity to which the surviving spouse, children, or parents are entitled under this subsection (h) shall be in the amount of 66 2/3% of the sheriff's law enforcement employee's earned annuity at the date of death.
- (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the monthly annuity of a survivor of a person who first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article on or

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- after January 1, 2011, except any person employed as a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic before January 1, 2011, who, after that date, first becomes a sheriff's law enforcement employee under this Article by operation of paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3, shall be increased on the January 1 after attainment of age 60 by the recipient of the survivor's annuity and each January 1 thereafter by 3% or one-half the annual unadjusted percentage increase in the consumer price index-u for the 12 months ending with the September preceding each November 1, whichever is less, of the originally granted pension. Ιf the annual unadjusted percentage change in the consumer price index-u for a 12-month period ending in September is zero or, when compared with the preceding period, decreases, then the annuity shall not be increased.
- (j) For the purposes of this Section, "consumer price index-u" means the index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor that measures the average change in prices of goods and services purchased by all urban consumers, United States city average, all items, 1982-84 = 100. The new amount resulting from each annual adjustment shall be determined by the Public Pension Division of the Department of Insurance and made available to the boards of the pension funds.
- 25 (Source: P.A. 96-961, eff. 7-2-10; 96-1495, eff. 1-1-11.)

1 (	(40 ]	ILCS	5/	(7-150)	(	from	Ch.	108	1/	/2,	par.	7 -	-150
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- Sec. 7-150. Total and permanent disability benefits 
  Eligibility. Total and permanent disability benefits shall be

  payable to participating employees as hereinafter provided,

  including those employees receiving disability benefit on July

  1, 1962.
  - (a) A participating employee shall be considered totally and permanently disabled if:
    - 1. He is unable to engage in any gainful activity because of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or be of a long continued and indefinite duration, other than as a result of self-inflicted injury or addiction to narcotic drugs;
    - 2. The Board has received a written certification by at least 1 licensed and practicing physician stating that the employee meets the qualifications of subparagraph 1 of this paragraph (a).
- 19 (b) A totally and permanently disabled employee is entitled 20 to a permanent disability benefit provided:
  - 1. He has exhausted his temporary disability benefits.
  - 2. He:
    - (i) has at least one year of service immediately preceding the date the disability was incurred and has made contributions to the fund for at least the number of months of service normally required in his position

during a 12 month period, or has at least 5 years of service credit, the last year of which immediately preceded the date the disability was incurred; or

- (ii) had qualified under clause (i) above, but had an interruption in service with the same participating municipality or participating instrumentality of not more than 3 months in the 12 months preceding the date the temporary disability was incurred and was not paid a separation benefit; or
- (iii) had qualified under clause (i) above, but had an interruption after 20 or more years of creditable service, was not paid a separation benefit, and returned to service prior to the date the disability was incurred.

Item (iii) of this subdivision shall apply to all employees whose disabilities were incurred on or after July 1, 1985, and any such employee who becomes eligible for a disability benefit under item (iii) shall be entitled to receive a lump sum payment of any accumulated disability benefits which may accrue from the date the disability was incurred until the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1987.

Periods of qualified leave granted in compliance with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act shall be ignored for purposes of determining the number of consecutive months of employment under this subdivision (b) 2.

- 3. He is receiving no earnings from a participating municipality or instrumentality thereof or participating instrumentality, except as allowed under subsection (f) of Section 7-152.
  - 4. He has not refused to submit to a reasonable physical examination by a physician appointed by the Board.
  - 5. His disability is not the result of a mental or physical condition which existed on the earliest date of service from which he has uninterrupted service, including prior service, at the date of his disability, provided that this limitation shall not be applicable to a participating employee who, without receiving a disability benefit, receives 5 years of creditable service.
  - 6. He is not separated from the service of his employing participating municipality or instrumentality thereof or participating instrumentality on the date his temporary disability was incurred; for the purposes of payment of total and permanent disability benefits, a participating employee, whose employment relationship is terminated by his employing municipality, shall be deemed not to be separated from the service of his employing municipality or participating instrumentality if he continues disabled by the same condition and so long as he is otherwise entitled to such disability benefit.
  - 7. He has not refused to apply for a disability benefit under the Federal Social Security Act at the request of the

1 Board.

- (c) A participating employee shall remain eligible and may make application for a total and permanent disability benefit within 90 days after the termination of his temporary disability benefits or within such longer period terminating at the end of the period during which his employing municipality is prevented from employing him by reason of any statutory prohibition.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3, has 5 or more years of creditable service, and is found unable to perform his or her duties in the fire department by reason of heart disease, stroke, tuberculosis, or any disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, resulting from service as a firefighter, is entitled to an occupational disease disability pension during any period of such disability for which he or she has no right to receive salary.

Any active firefighter who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3, has completed 5 or more years of service, and is unable to perform his or her duties in the fire department by reason of a disabling cancer, which develops or manifests itself during a period while the firefighter is in the service of the fire department, shall be entitled to receive an

occupational disease disability benefit during any period of such disability for which he or she does not have a right to receive salary. In order to receive this occupational disease disability benefit, (i) the type of cancer involved must be a type that may be caused by exposure to heat, radiation, or a known carcinogen, as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and (ii) the cancer must (and is rebuttably presumed to) arise as a result of service as a firefighter.

A firefighter who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3 and who enters the service after August 27, 1971 shall be examined by one or more practicing physicians appointed by the Board. If the examination discloses impairment of the heart, lungs, or respiratory tract, or the existence of any cancer, the firefighter who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3 shall not be entitled to the occupational disease disability pension unless and until a subsequent examination reveals no such impairment or cancer.

The occupational disease disability pension shall be equal to the greater of (1) 65% of the salary attached to the rank held by the firefighter in the fire service at the time of his or her removal from the municipality's fire department payroll or (2) the retirement pension that the firefighter would be eligible to receive if he or she retired (but not including any automatic annual increase in that retirement pension).

The firefighter who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3 is also entitled to a child's disability benefit of \$20 a month for each natural or legally adopted unmarried child less than age 18 who is dependent upon the firefighter for support. The total child's disability benefit when added to the occupational disease disability pension shall not exceed 75% of the firefighter's salary at the time of the grant of occupational disease disability pension.

The occupational disease disability pension is payable to the firefighter during the period of the disability. If the disability ceases before the death of the firefighter, the disability pension payable under this Section shall also cease, and the firefighter thereafter shall receive such pension benefits as are provided in accordance with other provisions of this Article.

If a firefighter who qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3 dies while still disabled and receiving a disability pension under this Section, the disability pension shall continue to be paid to the firefighter's survivors. A pension previously granted under this Section to a firefighter who died while receiving a disability pension under this Section shall be deemed to be a continuation of the pension provided under this Section and shall be deemed to be in the nature of worker's occupational disease compensation payments.

- 1 The changes to this Section made by this amendatory Act of the
- 2 97th General Assembly are intended to be retroactive and are
- 3 <u>not limited to persons in service on or after the effective</u>
- 4 date.
- 5 The child's disability benefit shall terminate if the
- 6 <u>disability ceases while the firefighter is alive or when the</u>
- 7 <u>child or children attain age 18 or marry, whichever event</u>
- 8 occurs first, except that benefits payable on account of a
- 9 child under this Section shall not be reduced or terminated by
- reason of the child's attainment of age 18 if he or she is then
- 11 dependent by reason of a physical or mental disability but
- shall continue to be paid as long as such dependency continues.
- 13 Individuals over the age of 18 and adjudged as a disabled
- 14 person pursuant to Article XIa of the Probate Act of 1975,
- 15 except for persons receiving benefits under Article III of the
- 16 Illinois Public Aid Code, shall be eligible to receive benefits
- 17 under this Act.
- 18 (Source: P.A. 90-766, eff. 8-14-98.)
- 19 (40 ILCS 5/7-156) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-156)
- Sec. 7-156. Surviving spouse annuities amount.
- 21 (a) The amount of surviving spouse annuity shall be:
- 22 1. Upon the death of an employee annuitant or such person
- 23 entitled, upon application, to a retirement annuity at date of
- death, (i) an amount equal to 1/2 of the retirement annuity
- 25 which was or would have been payable exclusive of the amount so

- payable which was provided from additional credits, and disregarding any election made under paragraph (b) of Section 7-142, plus (ii) an annuity which could be provided at the then attained age of the surviving spouse and under actuarial tables then in effect, from the excess of the additional credits, (excluding any such credits used to create a reversionary annuity) used to provide the annuity granted pursuant to paragraph (a) (2) of Section 7-142 of this article over the total annuity payments made pursuant thereto.
- 2. Upon the death of a participating employee on or after attainment of age 55, an amount equal to 1/2 of the retirement annuity which he could have had as of the date of death had he then retired and applied for annuity, exclusive of the portion thereof which could have been provided from additional credits, and disregarding paragraph (b) of Section 7-142, plus an amount equal to the annuity which could be provided from the total of his accumulated additional credits at date of death, on the basis of the attained age of the surviving spouse on such date.
- 3. Upon the death of a participating employee before age 55, an amount equal to 1/2 of the retirement annuity which he could have had as of his attained age on the date of death, had he then retired and applied for annuity, and the provisions of this Article that no such annuity shall begin until the employee has attained at least age 55 were not applicable, exclusive of the portion thereof which could have been provided from additional credits and disregarding paragraph (b) of

Section 7-142, plus an amount equal to the annuity which could be provided from the total of his accumulated additional credits at date of death, on the basis of the attained age of the surviving spouse on such date.

In the case of the surviving spouse of a person who dies before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, if the surviving spouse is more than 5 years younger than the deceased, that portion of the annuity which is not based on additional credits shall be reduced in the ratio of the value of a life annuity of \$1 per year at an age of 5 years less than the attained age of the deceased, at the earlier of the date of the death or the date his retirement annuity begins, to the value of a life annuity of \$1 per year at the attained age of the surviving spouse on such date, according to actuarial tables approved by the Board. This reduction does not apply to the surviving spouse of a person who dies on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

In computing the amount of a surviving spouse annuity, incremental increases of retirement annuities to the date of death of the employee annuitant shall be considered.

(b) Each surviving spouse annuity payable on January 1, 1988 shall be increased on that date by 3% of the original amount of the annuity. Each surviving spouse annuity that begins after January 1, 1988 shall be increased on the January 1 next occurring after the annuity begins, by an amount equal

- 1 to (i) 3% of the original amount thereof if the deceased
- 2 employee was receiving a retirement annuity at the time of his
- death; otherwise (ii) 0.167% of the original amount thereof for
- 4 each complete month which has elapsed since the date the
- 5 annuity began.
- On each January 1 after the date of the initial increase
- 7 under this subsection, each surviving spouse annuity shall be
- 8 increased by 3% of the originally granted amount of the
- 9 annuity.
- 10 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article,
- 11 the pension of the surviving spouse of a firefighter who
- 12 qualifies as a sheriff's law enforcement employee under
- paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Section 7-109.3 and dies on
- or after January 1, 1988 as a result of sickness, accident, or
- injury incurred in or resulting from the performance of an act
- of duty or from the cumulative effects of acts of duty shall
- not be less than 100% of the salary attached to the rank held
- 18 by the deceased firefighter on the last day of service.
- 19 (Source: P.A. 94-712, eff. 6-1-06.)
- Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
- 21 Section 8.35 as follows:
- 22 (30 ILCS 805/8.35 new)
- Sec. 8.35. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
- of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the

- 1 <u>implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of</u>
- 2 <u>the 97th General Assembly.</u>
- 3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 4 becoming law.