

Employer Advisory Committee

Legislative Summary

February 14, 2013

HB 1226 SB 5633 Modifying PERS Retiree Return to Work Requirements

ESHB 1981 of the 2011 session modified the return to work rules for PERS retirees. This bill would correct some unintended consequences of those statute changes to ensure that:

- PERS retirees who return to work in ineligible positions would not be subject to the 867 hour limitation.
 - PERS Plan 2 or Plan 3 retirees who return to work in eligible positions covered by other DRS administered systems would be eligible to work up to 867 hours before their benefit is suspended.
-

HB 1266 SB 5046 Modifying the Mandatory Retirement Age for District Court Judges

This bill would change the mandatory retirement criteria for District Court Judges to require retirement after the end of the term of office in which they turn age 75, instead of at the end of the calendar year in which they turn age 75.

HB 1399 Natural Resource Investigators As General Authority Enforcement Officers

This bill would make the Department of Natural Resources a general authority enforcement agency, and make Natural Resource Investigators general authority enforcement officers. However, the bill explicitly provides that these changes would not provide prospective membership into LEOFF Plan 2 for these Investigators.

HB 1610 SB 5512 Retirement Eligibility for Plan 2/3 Public School Administrators

This bill would allow Plan 2/3 administrators in School Districts to retire using the Alternate Early Retirement Reduction factors if:

- They have been employed for 30 school years; and
- Have at least 29 years and 10 months of retirement service credit;
- And are at least age 55.

HB 1665 Alternate Retirement Provisions for PERS ,TRS and SERS (Rule of 85)

This bill provides unreduced retirement benefits to any vested Plan 2 and Plan 3 member of PERS, TRS, and SERS, who is at least age 55 and for whom the sum of the member's age and the number of years of the member's service credit equals 85 or more

HB 1666 Five year vesting in Plan 3

This bill modifies age and service credit requirements for receiving an unreduced retirement benefit to require at least five years of service credit at age 65 for Plan 3 members of PERS, TRS, and SERS. Currently, members can be required to work up to 10 years before qualifying for a retirement benefit at age 65.

HB 1667 Modifying Retiree Return to Work Restrictions

This bill would remove certain restrictions for Plan 2/3 retirees in PERS, TRS or SERS who retired using the 2008 early retirement factors. Currently, the pension is suspended immediately if a retiree returns to any public employment. This bill would allow these retirees up to 867 hours of public employment prior to their pension being suspended.

HB 1668 SB 5650 PEBB Access for Separated Plan 2 Members

This bill would provide access to retiree PEBB benefits for Plan 2 members who have at least 20 years of service and separate from employment after age 55 and choose to defer receiving their pension benefit until a later age.

HB 1741 SB 5654 Local Government Retirees Access to HCA Benefits

This bill would potentially provide access to HCA administered benefits for retirees from local government. The employer would be required to apply for benefits on behalf of the interested retiree.

HB 1820 Extending Furlough Protection of AFC for 2013-2015 Biennium

This bill would extend the modifications to salary averaging periods for retirees in the DRS administered system to include forgone salary due to employer approved budget reduction strategies, such as furloughs and salary decreases.

HB 1849 DNR Enforcement Officers Transferred to Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

This bill would transfer all enforcement officers and the enforcement authority of the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. DNR enforcement officers would become commissioned Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers upon transfer to their new agency. This transfer would also make them eligible for membership in LEOFF Plan 2 for their service as a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer.

HB 1868 SB 5698 Health Insurance for Catastrophically Disabled L2 Members

This bill allows catastrophically disabled LEOFF Plan 2 members to be reimbursed for premiums of medical insurance other than that which is provided by the employer, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), or Medicare A and/or B. The reimbursement would only be allowed for payments made after June 30, 2013 and would not exceed the amount reimbursed for premiums authorized by COBRA.

HB 1875 Park Rangers As General Authority Enforcement Officers

This bill would make the State Parks and Recreation Commission a general authority enforcement agency, and make Park Rangers general authority enforcement officers. However, the bill explicitly provides that these changes would not provide prospective membership into LEOFF Plan 2 for Park Rangers.

HB 1876 Liquor Control Enforcement Officers As General Authority Enforcement Officers

This bill would make the Liquor Control Board a general authority enforcement agency, and make Peace or Enforcement Officers of the LCB general authority enforcement officers. However, the bill explicitly provides that these changes would not provide prospective membership into LEOFF Plan 2 for these officers.

SB 5383 Modifying PERS Retiree Return to Work Requirements for Certain Retirees

This bill would allow a PERS Plan 2 retiree who retired under the alternate early retirement factors to work up to sixty days before their pension is suspended if:

- They return to work in the elections division of a county auditor; and
 - They return to work no sooner than 30 days after their retirement accrual date; and
 - They are compensated at a rate less than or equal to their former salary prior to retirement.
-

SB 5392 Limiting the Impact of Excess Compensation on Retirement Contribution Rates

This bill would charge the employer the actuarial cost of the increase to a retirement pension when the total salary in the salary averaging period used to calculate the benefit is 1 1/2 times greater than the salary in the previous salary period of equal length. The employer is charged when the salary increase is due to the use overtime, bonuses, cash outs of leave, or other lump sum payments.

SB 5698 Health Insurance for Catastrophically Disabled L2 Members

This bill would reimburse eligible L2 disability retirees for the cost of private insurance, if other insurance is not available. The total cost of the reimbursement can be no greater than the cost of the employer provided insurance at the COBRA rate

Legal Update-

- Gain sharing lawsuit
- Annual Increase removal