



H.B. 211

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Trakas, McGregor, DePiero, Reidelbach, Miller, Ujvagi, Strahorn

BILL SUMMARY

- Includes metropolitan housing authority police officers in the law enforcement division of the Public Employees Retirement System.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) has special provisions for members who are law enforcement officers (PERS-LE). Under these provisions members with sufficient qualifying credit may retire earlier than other PERS members and will receive a benefit calculated under a different benefit formula (see **COMMENT**). These law enforcement officers include a range of state, county, and township officers who, if they have 25 years of law enforcement service, qualify for full retirement at age 48 or at age 52, depending on the nature of the service. Those whose primary duties are preservation of the peace, protection of life and property, and enforcement of the law qualify at age 48; all others qualify at age 52. The employer and employee contribution rates for law enforcement officers are higher than those for other PERS members (see **COMMENT**).

The bill

(secs. 145.01 and 145.33; Section 3)

The bill provides for PERS members employed as metropolitan housing authority police officers to be included in PERS-LE. The bill defines "metropolitan housing authority police officers" as full-time employees of a metropolitan housing authority police force who have been awarded a certificate by the executive director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission evidencing satisfactory completion of peace officer training. (See sec. 109.77.) The bill gives each current metropolitan housing authority police officer the

option, within 90 days after the bill's effective date, to indicate on a form supplied by PERS whether the officer wishes to remain in regular PERS or join PERS-LE. Metropolitan housing authority police officers hired after the bill takes effect are automatically enrolled in PERS-LE.

COMMENT

The following chart shows the difference in contribution rates, retirement eligibility, and benefit calculations between regular PERS members and members of PERS-LE.

PERS Feature	Regular PERS Members	PERS Law Enforcement Officers whose duties are to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the laws	PERS Law Enforcement Officers whose primary duties are other than to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the laws
Employee Contribution Rate	8.5 % of earnable salary	10.1% of earnable salary	9.0% of earnable salary
Employer Contribution Rate	State-- 13.31% of earnable salary Local-- 13.55% of earnable salary	16.7% of earnable salary	16.7% of earnable salary
Regular Retirement Eligibility	At any age with 30 or more years of service Age 65 with 5 years of service	Age 48 with 25 years of service Age 62 with 15 years of service	Age 52 with 25 years of service Age 62 with 15 years of service
Early Retirement Eligibility	Age 60 with 5 or more years of service Age 55 with 25 or more years of service	Any age with 15 or more years of service, but payment of benefits is deferred until age 52	Any age with 15 or more years of service, but payment of benefits is deferred until age 52 Age 48 with 25 or more years of service

PERS Feature	Regular PERS Members	PERS Law Enforcement Officers whose duties are to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the laws	PERS Law Enforcement Officers whose primary duties are other than to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the laws
Regular Retirement Benefit Formulas	The greater of: (a) \$86 x years of service; (b) 2.2% final average salary (FAS) x years of service through 30 years, plus 2.5% FAS x years over 30, not to exceed 100% of FAS ¹	2.5% FAS x years of service through 25 years of service, plus 2.1% FAS x years over 25, not to exceed 90% of FAS	2.5% FAS x years of service through 25 years of service, plus 2.1% FAS x years over 25, not to exceed 90% of FAS
Early Retirement Benefit Formulas	Less than 30 years of service, or under age 65, benefit is reduced 3 to 25%, depending on age and years of service	Under age 62 with at least 15 but less than 25 years of service, 1.5% FAS x years of service	Under age 62 with at least 15 but less than 25 years of service, 1.5% FAS x years of service At least age 48 but less than age 52 with 25 years of service, benefit is reduced 7 to 25%, depending on age

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	06-04-03	p. 537

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¹ With some exceptions, final average salary is the average of the three years of contributing service in which the member's earnable salary was highest (R.C. 145.01).