

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission

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Committee Charge

Pursuant to Section 31-31-1001, C.R.S., the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission (commission) has the responsibility to study and develop proposed legislation relating to funding of police officers' and firefighters' pensions in the state and benefit designs of such pension plans. Current law directs the commission to study, review, and propose legislation related to these issues including, but not limited to, the following subjects:

- normal retirement age and compulsory retirement;
- payment of benefits prior to normal retirement age;
- service requirements for eligibility;
- rate of accrual of benefits;
- disability benefits;
- survivors' benefits;
- vesting of benefits;
- employee contributions;
- post-retirement increases;
- creation of an administration board;
- creation of a consolidated statewide system;
- distribution of state funds;
- coordination of benefits with other programs; and
- the volunteer firefighter pension system.

Commission Activities

The commission met one time during the legislative interim, on September 28, 2017. At this meeting, the Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA) discussed the history of legislative oversight of pension plans for firefighters and police officers in Colorado. The FPPA also presented its annual report and discussed the funded status of the various pension plans it oversees. The commission discussed a 2016 study of volunteer firefighter pension plans and considered public testimony on this issue.

Committee Recommendations

As a result of committee discussion and deliberation, the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission recommends the following two bills for consideration in the 2018 legislative session.

Bill A – FPPA Statewide Standard Health History Form. Members of the FPPA are required to complete a standard health history form at the time they are hired. Bill A specifies that employers are required to ensure that members complete the form. It also allows the FPPA to adopt an electronic format for the form. Finally, it specifies that any member who omits or conceals a material fact concerning his or her health history may be disqualified from receiving disability or survivor benefits.

Bill B – Employer Entry FPPA Defined Benefit System. Bill B modifies statutory provisions related to the FPPA's partial entry program. The partial entry program permits FPPA members to remain covered by the statewide money purchase plan or to join the defined benefit system. Under this bill, the application process is simplified for a local government employer to cover some or all of its members under the defined benefit system instead of the money purchase plan. An employer may also require all new employees hired after a certain date who meet certain criteria to participate in the defined benefit system.